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**THE GREAT RUSH AMID SHARP SPIKE**

Migrant workers stand in close proximity outside the Hatia railway station in Ranchi to board trains to go back home. Workers have been making a beeline for transport facilities amid a sharp rise in number of cases and fears of another complete lockdown leaving them stranded | PTI

The deserted AIIMS during the weekend lockdown in New Delhi on Sunday; and a patient on oxygen and drips on a stretcher, apparently due to the lack of Covid beds, receiving primary care outside the Kanpur LLR Hospital | PTI

State records highest 19,067 additions in Covid-19 cases in a single day, apart from 81 deaths; but mortality rate remains low at 1.14%

# K'taka sees 1,407% jump in active cases since 2nd wave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a massive 1,407 per cent increase in the number of active cases from the commencement of the second wave until now, Karnataka has 1,33,543 patients in various hospitals across the state -- the highest number of active cases in the state ever since the pandemic struck the state on March 8, 2020.

The spiralling figure was reached even as Karnataka had the highest daily addition to the Covid tally with a massive 19,067 cases — by far the highest single-day addition — with the highest number of deaths in a single day at 81, taking the toll to 13,351.

There were just 8,860 active cases on March 15 when the indicators to the beginning of the second wave were showing up, which shows how rapidly the dreaded infection is spreading.

Karnataka is now third among states with the highest number of patients under treatment, or active cases. Maharashtra with 6,47,933, and Uttar Pradesh with 1,91,457 are first and second.

Karnataka recorded 1,20,929 active cases on October 10, 2020, which had remained the highest until Sunday. From September 10, 2020 until now, the state has seen 32 days when the number of active cases has been over one lakh. In the second wave, the state crossed it on April 16, while it had gone — and remained — below that since October 21, 2020 when the first wave had begun waning.

Similarly, active cases in Bengaluru crossed the 97,000-mark touching 97,897.

The state now has a Covid tally of 11,61,065 cases with the single-day addition of 19,067 cases on Sunday, taking the figure up from the Saturday tally of 11,41,998. With this, the state's positivity rate has gone further up to 4.92 per cent from 4.87 per cent the previous day. The positivity rate had witnessed a robust decline in the number of persons testing positive per 100 tests, from the peak of 12.54 per cent on September 27, 2020, until April 5 this year when it went up for the first time. From then on it has relentlessly been on the rise from 4.64 per cent on that day to 4.92 per cent now. The state's day-wise positivity rate shot up to 13.09 per cent.

Only the mortality rate is showing a heartening decline. It stands at 1.14 per cent, down from 1.28 per cent on March 15. The state health department has been eyeing to bring it down below 1 per cent, which has been achieved in Bengaluru, where the mortality rate now stands at 0.93 per cent. The city reported 60 deaths, though the day's figures are the highest reported in 2021.

Of the 19,067 cases added on Sunday, a massive 12,793 are contributed by Bengaluru Urban. This is a jump from the 11,404 cases reportedly added in the city a day before.

The state's recovery rate fell below 88 per cent, with 4,603 discharges on April 18, taking it to 87.34 per cent. Bengaluru's recovery rate also reduced from 82.61 per cent on Saturday to 81.15 per cent on Sunday. The drop in the recovery rate is after seeing a high of 98.06 per cent on January 30 when the first wave had considerably waned. P3,4

A healthcare worker prepares to collect a swab sample from a passenger at the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

| STATEWIDE | APRIL 17 | APRIL 18 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 17,489 | 19,067 |
| Active cases | 1,19,160 | 1,33,543 |
| Deaths | 80 | 81 |
| Recoveries | 5,565 | 4,603 |
| Fresh cases in B'luru Urban | 11,404 | 12,793 |

**STATE READIES TO TAKE ON THE CURVE**

Ballari and Vijayanagara working overtime to meet the demand for oxygen from across the country

Sari cases are increasing in Dharwad district, with a lot of patients seeking ICU admission

As cases rise, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant issues guidelines to be followed

# OXYGEN BAN ON INDUSTRY TO SAVE LIVES

SOS as Delhi has less than 100 ICU beds; positivity rate doubles to 16.69% in 12 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID dire scarcity of medical oxygen for Covid patients, the Centre on Sunday banned the supply of oxygen for industrial purposes — except in nine specified industries. The decision was taken based on the recommendations of the Empowered Group-II, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said, adding it will come into effect from Thursday.

Parallelly, the Railways decided to roll out an Oxygen Express to ease transport bottlenecks (see graphic).

Delhi is staring at an unprecedented health crisis as it has less than 100 ICU beds vacant in its hospitals, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal revealed. On a day when over 25,000 people tested positive for Covid, Kejriwal said: "I spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah today and informed him of our dire need of beds and oxygen. We are constantly in touch with the Centre and getting help from it." Also, the case positivity rate jumped from 24% to 30% in just 24 hours, he informed.

He wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to increase the number of beds reserved for Covid patients in Central government hospitals from 1,800 to 7,000. Delhi also sought uninterrupted supply of oxygen, which has reached a critical stage.

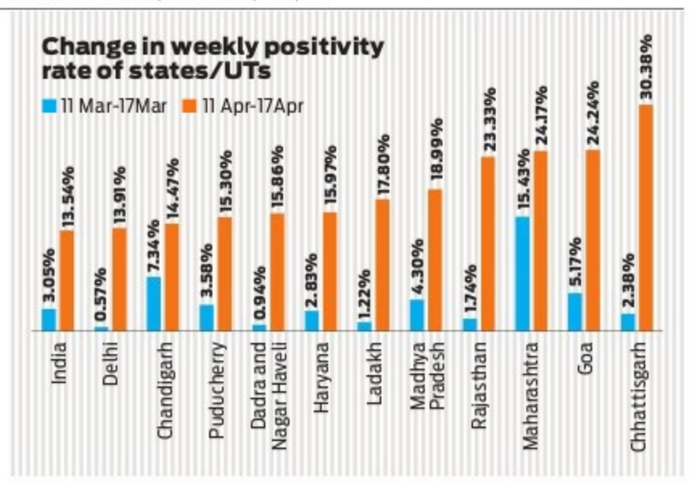
Another grim data point was the national case positivity rate, which doubled to to 16.69% in 12 days. "The daily positivity rate in the last 12 days has doubled from 8% to 16.69%," the Union health ministry said in a statement. And the national weekly positivity rate increased from 3.05% to 13.54% in the last one month (see chart).

In Gujarat, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel was candid in admitting that the present requirement of Covid beds and other healthcare facilities is more than the state administration's capacity.

| NATIONWIDE | APRIL 17 | APRIL 18 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 2,40,423 | 2,61,500 |
| Recoveries | 1,25,751 | 1,38,423 |
| Deaths | 1,303 | 1,501 |

In Madhya Pradesh, six critical Covid patients died at the Government Medical College Hospital ICU at Shahdol allegedly due to low oxygen pressure. The hospital though attributed it to co-morbidities.

Social media sites were flooded with requests for help in arranging beds and oxygen.




## Expand jab drive, empower states, ex-PM tells Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday wrote to incumbent Narendra Modi offering five suggestions to tackle the second wave of the pandemic. Highlighting the need for an intensified vaccination drive, Singh urged the Centre to look at percentages, not absolute numbers, to assess its impact.

While over 12 crore people in India have been vaccinated as on April 18, in percentage terms it is below 9%, a far cry from 24% in the US, 56% in Israel or 28% in Chile. In the letter, Singh urged the Centre to data on doses ordered for the next six months and their scheme of distribution to help states appropriately plan. Singh appealed for greater leeway for states in defining frontline workers, who can be vaccinated even if they are below 45 years of age.

He also advised the Centre to augment private facilities to improve production while allowing the import of shots cleared by credible international agencies without insisting on bridging trials.

**Heed them**

- Publicise the number of doses ordered for the next six months. Place advance orders to meet the target
- Make distribution formula transparent so that states can plan their drive. Centre may retain 10% for distribution
- Let states define categories of frontliners who can be vaccinated
- Strengthen and expand the private manufacturing facilities
- Allow import of shots cleared by credible international agencies like USFDA

**OXYGEN Express to plug demand-supply gaps**

Empty tankers to roll out from Mumbai today to bring liquid medical oxygen from Vizag, Jamshedpur, Rourkela and Bokaro

Full-fledged service of Oxygen Express likely in a few days after green corridors are created

The decision follows proposals made by Maharashtra and MP governments requesting the Railways to help bridge the demand-supply gap

Tankers would be placed on flat wagons (roll-on-roll-off) as part of the plan

The dimensions of the tankers were determined after a meeting between Railway Board, transport commissioners and industry representatives

Ramps have been created at destination stations for smooth roll out

# Rahul bites the bullet, cancels election rallies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

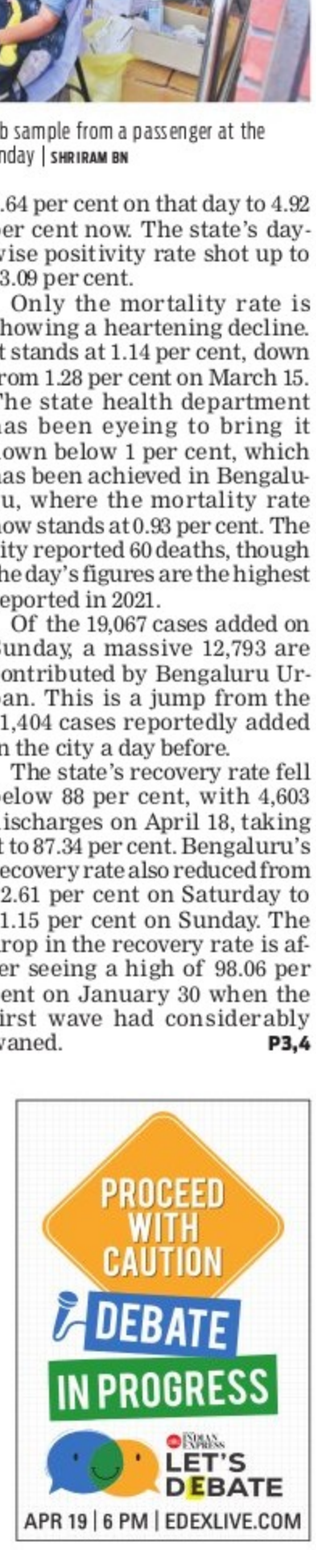
ANNOUNCING the suspension of all his public rallies in West Bengal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged other leaders to consider the consequences of holding huge public rallies.

"In view of the Covid-19 situation, I am suspending all my public rallies in West Bengal. I would advise all political leaders to think deeply about the consequences of holding large public rallies under the current circumstances," he said on Twitter. In another tweet in Hindi, Rahul wrote: "One has seen such a crowd of the sick and the dead for the first time."

While the Congress has little stake in the West Bengal elections, it's the biggies like the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee and the BJP that are locked in a no-holds-barred fight for power.

Though both parties are yet to react, Trinamool candidate from Bhawanipur Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay said he has decided not to hold any major rallies in view of the Covid-19 situation. Bhawanipur goes to polls on April 26. It is the seat held by Mamata in the outgoing Assembly. Both Mamata and BJP leader Amit Shah held roadshows in different parts of Bengal on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill lauded Rahul Gandhi and said the BJP must follow him. Shergill said Rahul Gandhi was "leading by example" by cancelling his rallies in the interest of public health and safety.




EXPRESS READ

## Guv meets officials over Covid spike

With Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa still recovering from Covid in hospital, Governor Vajubhai Vala on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of officials to take stock of the state's pandemic situation. P4

## All-party meet to discuss restrictions

Revenue Minister and Deputy Chair for State Disaster Management Authority R Ashoka will hold an all-party meeting at 3 pm on Monday, as the government is set to announce more curbs, in light of Covid-19. P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

# Insurance cover ends for healthcare workers

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE Centre has quietly decided not to extend an insurance scheme of ₹50 lakh for healthcare workers who die in the line of Covid-19 duty beyond a year, it has emerged even as the country is in the middle of a ferocious wave of the infection.

A circular sent by Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan to states last month said that the scheme had concluded on March 24. The Centre had last year announced the scheme to incentivise healthcare workers as part of its ₹1.7 lakh crore Covid-19 relief package.

"Approximately 22 lakh health workers would be provided insurance cover to fight this pandemic," the official statement had said. "Safai karamcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists and other health workers would be covered." It also covered workers in the private sector.

While there is no official data on the number of frontline workers who died of Covid-19 in India, according to the Indian Medical Association, at least 739 MBBS doctors, including three doctors in the second and ongoing wave of the pandemic, have succumbed to it.

The scheme was first implemented for 90 days and later extended for a year. Bhushan did not respond to queries by this newspaper on the content of his letter.

**'Sad and insensitive'**

Doctors expressed dismay. "It's really sad and insensitive on the part of the government," said former IMA president Ravi Wankhedkar

# Craftsmen in Karnataka may get vertical homes

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

EACH time you buy a toy, your childhood memory is most likely to go to wooden toys made in Channapatna. Every time you think of sandalwood products or artefacts, it is the state handicraft emporiums you turn to. But how and where do skilful artisans who make these perfectly crafted items live?

The Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation (KSHDC) has come up with an idea to construct vertical homes for these artisans, as big land parcels are difficult to find and land prices have soared across the state. The department has taken the magnifying glass to go through the fineprint of various housing schemes introduced by the State and Central Governments to find the best-suited one. The department is thinking of constructing apartment complexes at its existing land parcels in districts where the concentration of artisans is high. CONTINUED ON: P5

# Turned away by 3 B'luru hospitals, 40-yr-old dies

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@ Bengaluru

WHILE politicians have smooth access to hospitals after they test Covid-positive or have any other health issues, a 40-year-old domestic help, Mumtaz, a Covid suspect, died battling for her life, as she could not find a bed in Bengaluru.

A single mother, she leaves behind two children orphaned as three hospitals did not admit her. She died on way to the fourth hospital. Volunteers from the Emergency Response Team (ERT) of NGO Mercy Mission tried desperately to help her get immediate treatment from 7 pm on Saturday, but could not and she died at 10.30 am on Sunday.

Her oxygen saturation levels dropped to 65-70 per cent, while the normal is 95 per cent and higher. Her Covid test result was still awaited when she breathed her last. She visited Shifa Hospital, where no bed was available. She then went to Bowring Hospital, where they said they cannot admit her without the Covid test result. "We received a call after she was rejected at Bowring and we sent them two oxygen cylinders. When the second one was being administered, she stopped responding. We then took her to St Martha's hospital, where they did not give her emergency first-aid unless Rs 40,000 was paid upfront," said Mohammed Zaki Khaleeli, a volunteer with ERT.

Mumtaz, who did not have a job for a while, did not have any money. The volunteers requested with the hospital to provide her treatment, while they would arrange for the money. But the hospital administration refused to oblige, Khaleeli said. They were taking her to Victoria Hospital but she died en route.

After she passed away, even three people could not lift her body as it had swollen because of fluid retention. "Not providing first-aid emergency treatment is inhuman. We had to use our connections to try different hospitals and there was no government help. In the first wave, the war room did a decent job of allocating beds to patients, but this time, they do not seem to be functioning," he added. CONTINUED ON: P4

**ALMANAC TODAY**
• **Monday:** 19/04/2021 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Saptharni 6.31 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Punarvasu 1.50 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

**WEATHER**
MIN 22°C | MAX 32°C
**FORECAST**
Showers late. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.05 am
Sunset 6.32 pm
Moonrise 11.22 am
Moonset 0.22 pm

# Exam delay will affect ICSE students: Parents

Compared to CBSE peers, they are at a disadvantage with a 3-month setback; Online format of no help to them

**PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA**
@ Bengaluru

PARENTS of ICSE Board Class 10 students are in a quandary after the board put off its decision to hold examinations from May 4.

Parents told The New Indian Express that their wards are at a disadvantage as compared to CBSE students, whose admissions to Class 11 have already begun.

The students are facing a plethora of problems, the parents said. They have had a long year due to the pandemic and extending it further because of exams is unfair, said a parent, Vijay Iyer.

Iyer wrote to the CISCE Board seeking the criteria to assess students if written exams are not held. But he is yet to get a response.

He said the students should know the alternative criteria of marking and their score before deciding to take an examination, not the other way around.

Several students have taken to social media platforms to raise concerns. "Most CBSE students will start from the last week of April to first week of May, but our beloved ICSE is

telling us to wait till June. It means we will lag behind in Class 11, and will find it difficult to take admission in CBSE schools," said a student.

Another student said his school is taking an improvement examination on a short notice of three days, so that if the council seeks pre-board marks to decide on, they would be ready.

President of Voice of Parents, M Shakeel, told TNIE that a clarity in the marking system would be beneficial, and students want to write the exam because of the way the academic year has unfolded.

For instance, he said, CBSE students are accustomed to multiple choice question formats, and performed well in exams. But the same format, apt or online assessments, does not work for ICSE students, who perform well in descriptive answers.

"ICSE students have not fared well due to the different format, if they are counted for entry to class 11. Additionally, the academic fraternity is frowning upon the marks obtained by the 2021 batch, because unless it's a written exam, they claim not to know the actual marks gained. Postponing exams is not a solution. The board needs to spell out the criteria, and if exams are delayed, ICSE students will have a three-month setback compared to CBSE who will start classes on April 26," he added.

**OFFLINE MODE**

# STUDENTS START TWEET CAMPAIGN AGAINST EXAMS

**PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA**
@ Bengaluru

WITH various universities still holding examinations from April 19, students have united to start a twitter campaign against them.

Bengaluru North University, Bengaluru City University and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) had decided to go ahead with their examination schedules for affiliated colleges.

"The university is holding the third semester examinations from Monday in the peak of the pandemic. Initially, the university shortened the semester unceremoniously and said exams will be held in January, while the semester started on November 1. Exams were postponed 11 times until now, and are bent on taking examinations come what may," said a BNU student.

Although parents and students wrote to university officials, they got no response, the student added, stating that students in the hostel were tested positive.

Students have been running a twitter storm to cancel #VTUexamination. Vice-Chancellor Karisiddappa could not be reached.

Bengaluru City University Vice-Chancellor Lingaraju told TNIE that Monday's exam is only scheduled to be held in one affiliated college, and will be held with SOPs in place. Those who tested positive will be given a fresh chance to write the exam, he added.

Meanwhile, a number of Covid cases have been reported in Bangalore University that has indefinitely put off the examination for all its students. BU Vice Chancellor, K R Venugopal said several staff members have also tested positive and students have been asked to vacate the hostels. Entry to the campus is restricted.

# Saving lives... Residents, NGO get Rlys to close gap in wall at Cox Town

**S LALITHA** @ Bengaluru

WORRIED about deaths and injuries to the public, residents of Cox Town in Jeevanahalli with the support of an NGO made Railways recently close down a big gap in its compound wall that helped people trespass.

Since the gap was blocked using railway sleepers on February 26 this year, localites are relieved that there have been no deaths on tracks.

Rajkumar Dugar, Convenor, Citizens for Citizens (C4C), who facilitated the move, told The New Indian Express, "An average of one or two deaths used to take place on the tracks every month. Public who wanted to cross between Jeevanahalli Main Road and Charles Campbell Road passed through the hole and made a dash across the tracks. A group of residents approached me for help and we together told the Railways about the need to close it."

S Nirmal Kumar, a cloth merchant at Cox Town, was part of a 30-strong group that wanted hole closed. "We had sent numerous requests to the BBMP, but nothing came out of it. Finally, with the NGO's help the job was completed recently. Apart from trespassing, the tracks at the spot became a hub for illegal activities at night."

He said another opening on the wall off Campbell Road too needs to be closed soon. "Some still enter through the tracks. Though they cannot cross over now, some illegal activities still go on and need to be curbed," he added.

> **We had sent numerous requests to the BBMP, but nothing came out of it. Finally, with the NGO's help the job was completed recently**
>
> S Nirmal Kumar, a cloth merchant at Cox Town

Dugar explained that closing the gap was not easy. "It was strongly opposed by a section of people in the area as they felt it offered easy access to the other side. So, I suggested that instead of building a new wall, Railways could shut the opening by using construction material," he said.

The suggestion was taken up and many railway sleepers were placed just in front of the gap so that no one could pass through, he added. "Fearing opposition, the work was taken up post midnight on February 25," he explained.

**ON THE MOVE**

A fleet of private buses waits for passengers in Majestic, in Bengaluru on Sunday, as the road transport strike continues, putting commuters into hardship. While a few BMTC and KSRTC buses are plying, schedules continue to be hit | SHRIRAM BN

# Treated water gives new life to Doddabommasandra Lake

**S LALITHA** @ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of Kodigehalli, Vidyarayanapura, Nanjappa Layout, Doddabommasandra and Tidlu village can look forward to a better summer on the waterfront. Revival of the 126-acre Doddabommasandra Lake using treated water from the Sewage Treatment Plant installed nearby has ushered in a huge change in the surroundings.

In a classic instance of the government and private player working in tandem for a social cause, the State spent Rs 15 crore to create many public amenities here since 2012. Later, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) set up an STP at a cost of Rs 13 crore, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The plant has been operational for two months and has transformed the lake into a hangout spot for residents.

Water sustainability researcher, popularly known as 'Zen Rainman' S Vishwanath told TNIE, "This is the first instance of a private firm using CSR funding to build an STP. The STP has the capacity of treating 10 Million Litres Per Day (MLD). The lake uses 8 MLD from it while the rest is used by BEL for its purposes."

The groundwater level has clearly gone up, said Vishwanath. Open wells are now brimming with water, while individual borewells are yielding considerable water, he added.

Byatarayanapura MLA and former minister Krishna Byregowda said that many amenities were provided for developing physical infrastructure around the lake from 2012-2018. "It included a 4-km walking track and planting of over 1,500 trees. However, the lake was not getting water. Based on my experience in reviving other lakes in my constituency at Jakkur and Rachenahalli with the help of STPs, we decided to do the same here," he said.

Since BEL was in the vicinity, they were approached to fund it, and agreed. "Getting permissions from the revenue department, forest department and Lake Development Authority took some time as the new NGT guidelines had to be adhered to. After the STP became operational, thousands of people are benefiting from it, apart from birds and fish," he said.

The letting of sewage water and waste into the underground drainage has been stopped, which is a big plus, the MLA said. "It has been converted into a precious commodity like water, which in turn has rejuvenated the lake," he explained.

Former corporator of Doddabommasandra N E Pillappa said he contributed substantially from the ward funds to instal granite benches, kids' play area, tank bund, inlets for the lake and landscaping work.

## Daily Starscope

**PETER VIDAL**

**19th April: Uranus' continuing emotional condition takes us into a new long-term phase when original thinkers and artists will rise to the top of the pile and frivolous types will tend to lose out. However, this phase is going to take a few months to get going, so I wouldn't expect instant results.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
No Monday morning moans, please. Jupiter's generous and optimistic relationship over your houses of work and creativity is reinforced by Uranus' generally surprising movements. The long-term prospects for you, and for partners, are therefore excellent.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Nothing is absolutely black or white, and an ethical or moral question may be raised very soon. It is not necessary to sacrifice your interests; neither should you expect anyone else to do so. Overseas travel may beckon, but you may be content to dream.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
Every year at around this time Mercury, your planetary ruler and hence a natural ally, swings into a dramatic relationship to your sign. In fact, I think you'll start to sit up and take notice of everything that you've spent the last eleven months ignoring!

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
Sometimes it's impossible to figure out what makes people tick, and it is difficult to gauge whether partners will be totally confused, or utterly inspired. Probably this is something you can only assess for yourself, although you should avoid hasty judgments.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The Moon is making waves in areas of your chart on work, so you should have few difficulties tackling the real world. Romantic considerations may have to take second place for now. There's always time to tell someone how you feel about them.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Business, work and pleasure combine, by virtue of the Moon's sensible presence. Yet you must be aware that behind every simple statement lies a hidden and complicated meaning, and other people may be chronically incapable of saying what they think.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
A succession of helpful, harmonious planetary alignments could set you up for some very prosperous financial decisions. At the very least you should keep a sharp eye open for rare bargains. Your attitude to cash, though, is shaped by deep emotional forces.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The Sun is creating friction in areas of your chart which are intimately connected to your deepest desires. You have to remember, at times like these, that not everyone is on your wave-length. Neither will partners necessarily appreciate your sense of humour!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It may be hard for friends and colleagues born under the other 11 signs to admit, but you're right! Don't take things too far, for there are elements in the current situation which could surprise even you. The last thing you want to do is stir up feelings which are best left alone.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You're on an emotional roller-coaster today in a mild way. If your mood changes from hour to hour, try to make sure that your circumstances can be altered to suit it. In legal matters take the longest-term view, and don't agree to anything without expert advice.

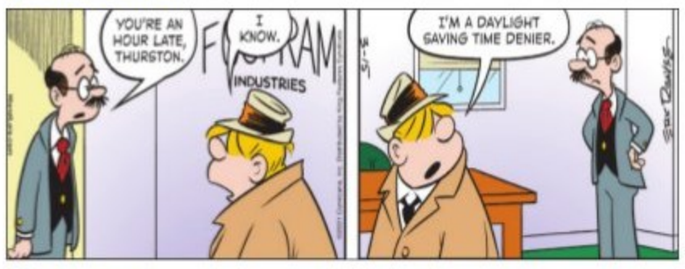
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Your hidden, hermit-like qualities may make an appearance today, and I doubt if you will welcome friends who try to be over-familiar. Anyone who tries to extract your secrets should be shown the door. I'm sure there's a very good reason for your privacy!

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There's a fair degree of agreement between one part of your chart and another, so you should be able to make up your mind for once! It's a grand day for confirming long-term plans, and making announcements about what you're going to do next.

**THE PHANTOM**

FASCIST GUNMEN WISH TO KNOW IF THERE WILL BE ANYTHING ELSE....?
YES, THANK YOU!
AH... ANOTHER LUCHA LIBRE GUY?
OH, YES... VERY MUCH SO..
CRASH! WHAM!

**HI AND LOIS**




**BEETLE BAILEY**

**BLONDIE**

HOLD ON! YOU'VE ALREADY ADDED A TWENTY-FIVE-DOLLAR TIP?!
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH MY MATH?
I THINK A TWENTY-FIVE-DOLLAR TIP FOR SUCH LOUSY SERVICE IS OUT OF LINE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, I WOULDN'T PAY IT EITHER
BUT...I WAS HOPING THAT YOU ARE MUCH MORE GENEROUS THAN I AM!

**LOCKHORNS**

**DENNIS THE MENACE**

**SUDOKU**

**Easy:** Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

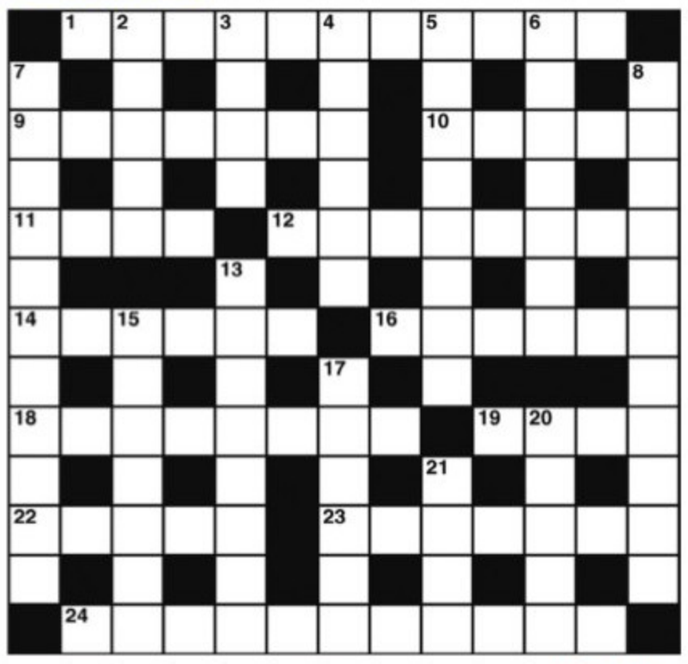
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | | 9 | | |
| | 8 | 1 | | | 2 | | 6 | |
| 3 | 5 | | | 9 | | | | 4 |
| | | | 6 | | 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | | 2 | | | 3 | 7 |
| | 7 | | 8 | | | 3 | 1 | |
| | | 5 | | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 9 |

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 |

**CROSS WORD**



**ACROSS**
1 Doris has her ingredients for sauce (11)
9 Urge on the leading intellectual? (7)
10 It has to be closed to hum perhaps (5)
11 Sound made by a band (4)
12 Fashionable writer will make his mark (8)
14 Eager to be camping? (6)
16 Fighting observed in the capital (6)
18 In use, can turn into a problem (8)
19 I am after a levy for transport (4)
22 Tongue of land surrounding a lake that's City that sent missionaries out to China (7)
24 Scottish family needs it made secret (11)

**DOWN**
2 Magazine or manual holder (5)
3 Throw light on a building (4)
4 Diana's in the arena on horseback (6)
5 Tomcared about the US politician (8)
6 It's used to compose pieces of music (7)
7 Confirm new bits are news (4,7)
8 Spokesman? (11)
13 Prepare for take-off (8)
15 Four make an appearance in a trial of no importance (7)
17 Argument over a note produces a predicament (6)
20 A grain in wood perhaps (5)
21 Impressive plea for restitution (4)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Aerial, 4 Spitfire, 9 Lagged, 10 Mackerel, 12 Case, 13 Snows, 14 Pass, 17 Trendsetters, 20 Green fingers, 23 Leap, 24 Stork, 25 Polo, 28 Redstart, 29 Rubens, 30 Scrapped, 31 Hatted.

**Down:** 1 Allocate, 2 Register, 3 Aces, 5 Play with fire, 6 Take, 7 Inroad, 8 Enlist, 11 Interest-free, 15 Adore, 16 Grind, 18 Redolent, 19 Espoused, 21 Glares, 22 Gander, 26 Atop, 27 Cuba.

**JUMBLE** By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

**Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.**

EEOSB

RITDH

TOCEIP

CLEHNI

It's a little idea I've been working on for hunting.
Ow! It will certainly hurt whatever you hit with it.
THE SPEAR WAS CRUDELY MADE FROM A BRANCH AND A ROCK, BUT THAT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

_____ THE _____

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** GLINT TEASE SINFUL THRUSH
**ANSWER:** She wanted to go camping, but her new boyfriend was – "RESIST-TENT"

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# Low on air, states look to Ballari for $O_2$

Besides Karnataka, oxygen produced in the district is being sought by Maharashtra, Gujarat and UP

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

THE oxygen-making units in Ballari and Vijayanagara districts are working overtime to meet the demand coming from various states, amidst the recent sudden spurt in Covid cases. Besides Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have also placed demands for a large quantity of oxygen. The Pune Corporation is said to have sent tankers to procure tonnes of oxygen from units in Ballari.

There are eight major oxygen production units in both the districts. Oxygen units in Ballari district have gradually increased production of the important element, as precautionary measure. As the number of Covid-19 cases is increasing in the country, the units have increased production capacity, producing 30 tonnes of oxygen per day.

The JSW Steel facility which is located at Toranagallu in Ballari district

Keeping sufficient store for the state, Ballari's units plan to supply 300 tonnes of oxygen to neighbouring Maharashtra in the coming days.

According to the Ballari district administration officer, out of the eight units, the JSW steel plant is one of the major oxygen producers in the district, with an output of 10 tonnes per day. Recently, the Maharashtra government ordered 300 tonnes of oxygen from the JSW plant. At the same time, other states including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh also requested that oxygen be shipped from Ballari district.

"Oxygen cylinders with a capacity of 45 kg, and those which can be carried around by individuals on their person -- weighing 3-5 kg, are in great demand. Ballari has a good number of industries. The raw material for oxygen production is also available here easily, compared to other districts. Eight districts in North Karnataka have oxygen supplied from the plants in Ballari," he said, adding that all plants are increasing their production capacity.

STAFF SAFETY

## Police chief issues new circular

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the second wave of Covid-19 surging in the state, and police personnel becoming soft targets, Karnataka DG&IGP **Praveen Sood** on Sunday issued a circular directing unit officers in charge to give priority to the well-being of their staff, and ensure all precautionary measures along with best medical care. The circular reads that police personnel should follow standard protocol issued earlier, while dealing with investigation, including questioning, arrest and escorting the accused to court. All should wear masks, face shields and follow hand hygiene, apart from maintaining social distance.

In the circular, Sood mentioned 16 points and directed officers in charge to ensure that their staff who are 45 years and above, and their family members, are compulsorily vaccinated and all the staff have been directed to get tested frequently. Those who have symptoms and related ailments should be deputed on desk work only. Regular awareness meetings have to be held by senior police officers and police personnel have to strictly follow guidelines issued by the Central and State governments.

Officers in charge should work out three shifts to ensure their personnel get adequate rest. Sanitisation is mandatory for patrol vehicles and police station premises, and a separate meeting place has to be designated outside the premises for the visiting public.

# Follow govt order on beds, warns Sudhakar; State mulls strict action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

The response from private hospitals towards reserving 50 per cent beds for Covid patients has not been satisfactory, which could compel the government to initiate legal action against those failing to comply with the orders, warned Health and Medical Education Minister **Dr K Sudhakar**.

He inspected Manipal and Sakra Hospitals on Sunday and mentioned that Manipal Hospital had not provided 50 per cent of the beds. Strict instructions have been given to the hospital. Legal action will be initiated if they fail to obey the orders. Let us not land in such a situation, he said.

"Private hospitals are facing a shortage of infrastructure and human resources. We are considering all the issues while managing it. There may be shortcomings, but we are trying to address all issues. We are prioritising the supply of oxygen, Remdesivir and other drugs. Increase in beds and temporary arrangements in hotels are being made," said Dr Sudhakar.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Revenue Minister R Ashoka have held an informal meeting to review the Covid situation in Bengaluru. It was discussed that tougher and more stringent measures are necessary in Bengaluru to control the second wave and these will be decided after an all-party meeting on Monday. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will take the decision after a detailed discussion with leaders.

**COVID-19 HOSPITAL BED STATUS IN B'LURU (APRIL 18)**

| Facility | Allocated | Occupied | Available |
|---|---|---|---|
| Govt Medical Colleges | 520 | 480 | 40 |
| Govt Hospitals | 821 | 752 | 69 |
| Pvt Medical Colleges | 2,052 | 2,071 | 981 |
| Pvt Hospitals | 1,760 | 1,233 | 527 |
| Govt Covid Care Centres | 578 | 499 | 79 |
| Total | 6,731 | 5,035 | 1,696 |

### BBMP notice to hospitals

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on Sunday issued noticed to Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal, Baptist Hospital, Aster CMI, Hebbal, Fortis Hospital and Vikram Hospital for not reserving 50 per cent of their beds for government referred COVID patients.

"It has been observed that your hospital has not compiled with the directions of the government to notify and make available the mandated 50 per cent of the beds for government referred patients. You are hereby directed to immediately comply for provision of the mandated number of beds within 48 hours and report the same to BBMP Commissioner, failing which action would be taken against your establishment," an excerpt of the notice read.

Signed by Gaurav Gupta, BBMP Commissioner, the letter directed the hospitals to update the SAST online portal with details of all government referred patients and private patients so that the actual COVID patient bed occupancy is reflected.

The establishments were also directed to give information about occupancy of the beds by non-COVID patients under various categories of beds. The above information was instructed to be handed over to Chief Health Officer, BBMP immediately within 24 hours.

EXPRESS READ

### 3 held for illegally stocking Remdesivir

BENGALURU: Amid concerns of a shortage of Remdesivir in the state, the CCB has arrested three persons for allegedly hoarding the deug. The accused were allegedly selling each dose at Rs 10,500, and the police have recovered 11 doses. The accused have been identified as Rajesh and Shakeeb, who run Gurushree Medicals in Suddaguntepalya, and Sohail. The CCB conducted a drive across the city, following reports about hoarding of the medicine, and selling it in the black market. Two cases of hoarding were found and three were arrested.

### Rlys carries out door-to-door jab drive

BENGALURU: To ensure that all its employees receive the Covid-19 vaccine, the Bengaluru division of South Western Railway on Saturday conducted a door-to-door awareness drive at the railway colonies at Bangarpet, Devanagonthi and Malur. "The drive was done to vaccinate railway employees and their dependents above 45 years," an official release said. Of 100 persons surveyed, 18 were found eligible for the vaccine. Prior to this, 265 staffers including healthcare and frontline workers were vaccinated at Bangarpet health unit.

**Government of India**
**Ministry of Education**
**National Institutional Ranking Framework** nirf

NIRF is in process of Announcing India Rankings 2021, the sixth edition of this annual exercise. We have received an overwhelming response from' Institutions of Higher Education.

Data submitted by the institutions in various disciplines like Engineering, Pharmacy, Management, Architecture, Law, Medical, Colleges & Dental including the Overall rankings of the institutions has been hosted by the participating institutions in their respective websites. The list of institutions who have submitted the data in India Rankings 2021 is available on our website **www.nirfindia.org**

The comments/feedback of the stakeholders are invited through this advertisement from **19th April 2021 to 25th April 2021 by 5 PM** on the data submitted by the institutions. The comments/feedback are auto-transmitted through an email without disclosing the identity of the stakeholder to the institution(s). All the Nodal Officers are requested to regularly check their emails to take necessary action on the comments/feedback received from various stakeholders.

Please note that the responsibility and accountability for the data rests entirely with the participating institutions.

**DAVP 21315/11/0001/2122** **Member Secretary**

**BENGALURU URBAN, BENGALURU RURAL & RAMANAGARA DIST. CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS' SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED**
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Ph: 080-26096258, Fax: 080-25536597.
e-mail: bamulengg@yahoo.com, website: www.bamulnandini.coop

**TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL TENDER OF WORKS PART-1 TENDER INVITATION (I F T)**

IFT No. BAMUL/M(E)/Civil-3/E-Tender/PW-01/30/35/44/2021-22 Date: 16-04-2021

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible tenderers registered in PWD Department / Central PWD Department / M.E.S Departments at the following places at Bangalore Milk Union Ltd. Work details and schedule is given in the Table below. The Earnest Money Deposit (E.M.D.) should be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender. Earnest money deposit will have to be paid in any one of the forms as specified in the tender document through e-procurement portal only.

| Package No. | Name of Works | Estimated cost of work (in Rs.) | EMD Amount (in Rs.) | Period of Completion | Contractors Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KW-1 | Supplying and fixing S S Bollards and S S railings with stone pillar around garden at Bamul premises | 19,85,156.00 | 50,000.00 | 60 Days (Including Monsoon) | Class-3 and above |
| KW-1 | Construction of new UG Tank of capacity 1lakh ltr & Repair work of old UG Tank & Overhead tank in Quarters, Dairy Colony, Bengaluru | 14,99,647.00 | 38,000.00 | 60 Days (Including Monsoon) | Class-3 and above |
| KW-2 | Providing and fixing 6 passanger lift and UPVC windows in Admin block at Bamul Premises, Bengaluru | 25,00,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 90 Days (Including Monsoon) | Class-2 and above |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Access to E-Tender Portal only | From 19.04.2021 to 03.05.2021 upto 5.30 PM |
| 2 | Last date for tender Queries | 30.04.2021 upto 2.30 PM |
| 3 | Last date & time for Submission of Tenders | 03.05.2021 upto 5.30 PM |
| 4 | Date & time for opening of Technical Tender (Part-I) | 04.05.2021 upto 2.30 PM |
| 5 | Date & time for opening of Commercial Tender (Part-II) | Will be informed to successful tenderer |
| 6 | Place of pre-bid meeting, opening of Technical / Commercial Bid | Bamul, Board Room, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560029 |

More details on the tender are available in e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Managing Director
Tender Inviting Authority
Bangalore Milk Society Union Limited

**Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited**
Regd office: 27BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400 051
Corporate office: Kotak Infiniti, Bldg No 21, Infinity Park, General AK Vaidya Marg, Malad (E), Mumbai – 400 097 www.kotak.com

**AUCTION - NOTICE**

That the below mentioned Borrower/s had availed gold loan facility against security of the gold ornaments/ items, as specified below. The Borrower/s defaulted in due repayment of the instalments and outstanding dues and as a result of which the Bank was constrained to issue notices calling upon the Borrower/s to repay the outstanding amounts. However, the Borrower/s has failed to repay/clear his outstanding dues thereby compelling the Bank to auction the gold ornaments pledged in favour of the Bank.

**The auction of the below mentioned gold ornaments would be held at :- Respective Branches**
**Date: 29.04.2021 Time: 11.00 AM**

| Apac | Account No | Borrower Name | State | Location | Branch | Gr. wt (Gms) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLN1907341 | GLN1907341 | Venkatesh R | Karnataka | BANGALORE | BASAVANGDI | 55.8 |
| GLN1808294 | GLN1808294 | Brindha S | Karnataka | BANGALORE | BASAVANGDI | 48 |
| GLN1771419 | GLN1771419 | Malliga M . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | BASAVSWRNR | 179.2 |
| GLN1771254 | GLN1771254 | Malliga M . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | BASAVSWRNR | 249.79 |
| GLN1599262 | GLN1599262 | B Jayalakshmi | Karnataka | BANGALORE | BSANKARI | 65.86 |
| GLN1184624 | GLN1184624 | P Jagadeesh Babu | Karnataka | BANGALORE | DEVASANDRA | 322.9 |
| GLN1671713 | GLN1671713 | M Abdul Wahab | Karnataka | BANGALORE | FRAZERTOW | 149.91 |
| GLN1539768 | GLN1539768 | M Abdul Wahab | Karnataka | BANGALORE | FRAZERTOW | 164.19 |
| GLN1540724 | GLN1540724 | M Abdul Wahab | Karnataka | BANGALORE | FRAZERTOW | 193.65 |
| GLN1891890 | GLN1891890 | Sartaj Ali | Karnataka | BANGALORE | FRAZERTOW | 119.52 |
| GLN1900890 | GLN1900890 | P Rajaguru | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 16.25 |
| GLN1868865 | GLN1868865 | Purushotham P.M | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 87.67 |
| GLN1868850 | GLN1868850 | Purushotham P.M | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 67.89 |
| GLN1457830 | GLN1457830 | R B U Bhaaskaran | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 91.64 |
| GLN1651384 | GLN1651384 | Mohamed Umair | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 109.34 |
| GLN1894430 | GLN1894430 | Imran Azeez | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 222.44 |
| GLN1695225 | GLN1695225 | Yeshashwini B A | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 75.71 |
| GLN1836382 | GLN1836382 | Gayathri S | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 27.14 |
| GLN1845871 | GLN1845871 | Satheesha J K | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 38.4 |
| GLN1194520 | GLN1194520 | Saleem N | Karnataka | BANGALORE | INFANTRYR | 255.38 |
| GLN1854237 | GLN1854237 | Pradeep L | Karnataka | BANGALORE | JAKASANDRA | 79.44 |
| GLN1889447 | GLN1889447 | Girish . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | JAKASANDRA | 24.4 |
| GLN1909768 | GLN1909768 | Girish . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | JAKASANDRA | 19.2 |
| GLN1841955 | GLN1841955 | Abilash H N | Karnataka | BANGALORE | JPNGR2 | 21.6 |
| GLN1699870 | GLN1699870 | Prathap K S | Karnataka | BANGALORE | KAMNHALI | 126.04 |
| GLN1861091 | GLN1861091 | Sujan Khan | Karnataka | BANGALORE | KAMNHALI | 16.13 |
| GLN1760058 | GLN1760058 | Aadil Ahmad Jan | Karnataka | BANGALORE | MALESWARA | 204.65 |
| GLN1936575 | GLN1936575 | Vignamma . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | MALESWARA | 13.17 |
| GLN1913900 | GLN1913900 | Vignamma . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | MALESWARA | 37.99 |
| GLN1857389 | GLN1857389 | Vidhya Atul Thakkar | Karnataka | BANGALORE | MALESWARA | 88.23 |
| GLN1251970 | GLN1251970 | Sabita Kolla | Karnataka | BANGALORE | MALESWARA | 359.98 |
| GLN1666570 | GLN1666570 | Pavan Kumar Pandyan | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RAJAJINAGA | 11.98 |
| GLN1865490 | GLN1865490 | Manjunath J | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RAJAJINAGA | 46.75 |
| GLN1739917 | GLN1739917 | M Saraswathi | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 159.4 |
| GLN1912132 | GLN1912132 | Mohammed Safee | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 180.7 |
| GLN1183619 | GLN1183619 | A Kishor Kumar | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 23.2 |
| GLN1837809 | GLN1837809 | Chandrashekar N | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 28 |
| GLN1501280 | GLN1501280 | Abhilash A S | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 71.2 |
| GLN1620000 | GLN1620000 | Vakkala Gokul Kumar . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | RTNAGAR | 42.9 |
| GLN1688432 | GLN1688432 | M Saraswathi | Karnataka | BANGALORE | SADASHIVA | 221.2 |
| GLN1842642 | GLN1842642 | Kamlesh Jain | Karnataka | BANGALORE | SADASHIVA | 168.75 |
| GLN1419830 | GLN1419830 | Kamlesh Jain | Karnataka | BANGALORE | SADASHIVA | 168.75 |
| GLN1863465 | GLN1863465 | Shaik Asif | Karnataka | BANGALORE | THIPASANDR | 57.5 |
| GLN1837910 | GLN1837910 | Sandeepa S | Karnataka | BANGALORE | THIPASANDR | 109.4 |
| GLN1867155 | GLN1867155 | Shekar . | Karnataka | BANGALORE | VIJAYANAGA | 378.37 |
| GLN1753173 | GLN1753173 | Manasa K R | Karnataka | BANGALORE | VIJAYANAGA | 254.09 |

Bidders are requested to Submit a copy of their Photo – identity, signature and address proof along with their original for verification together with two recent photographs on the day of auction. The Bank reserves the right to change the venue/date/time of auction or cancel the auction without any notice to bidders.

The cost of the auction process will be debited to the customer account. Bank reserves the right to recover the balance amount from the customer if the bid amount is insufficient to meet the payoff amount of the account.

For any further details regarding the terms and conditions of the auction, you are required to contact the below mentioned person/s.

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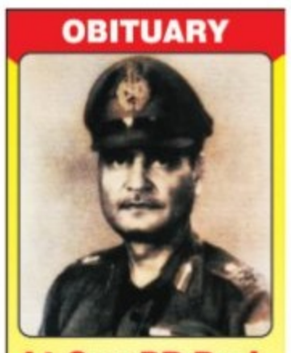
OBITUARY



**Lt Gen PR Puri, PVSM (Retd)**
"Ex E-in- C & Col Comdt Madras Sappers"
Passed away on 16th April 2021
We deeply mourn his sad demise and pray to the almighty to bestow peace upon the departed soul and give courage to his bereaved family.
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**POSSESSION NOTICE**
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

YLR/HL/62502640643/62502641353 /21252/HL/100

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **04.01.2021** calling upon the borrowers: **Smt.Manjula** W/o.Venkatesh and **Smt. Deepa V** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.62,37,619/-** (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Nineteen only) as on 03.01.2021 with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **16.04.2021.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India** for an amount of **Rs.63,23,298/-** (Rupees Sixty Three Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Eight only) as on 07.03.2021 and interest + expenses thereon.

The borrowers / mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the entire Second & Third Floor premises and 50% of the stilt for car parking in the residential property bearing No.1662/4, Katha No.1531, Assessment No.46, situated at Nagarbhavi Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, which now comes under jurisdiction of Bruhut Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Old Ward No.38, New Ward No.127, Present Municipal No.18, 9th Main, Byraveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru having PID No.38-75-18, together with 50% undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property bearing No.1662/4, Katha No.1531, Assessment No.46, situated at Nagarabhavi Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, which now comes under jurisdiction of Bruhut Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Old Ward No.38, New Ward No.127, Present Municipal No.18, 9th Main, Byraveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru having PID No.38-75-18, standing in the name of Smt.Manjula, Measuring : East to West :35 feet, North to South : 30 feet, in all measuring : 1050 sq.ft, and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property of Sri.Poojappa, North by : Property of Smt.L.Prabhavathi, South by : Private Property.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
**Place:Bengaluru** STATE BANK OF INDIA
**Date: 16.04.2021** RACPC-1, Basavangudi, Bengaluru

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# Ministers at odds, all-party meet today

No lockdown, says Ashoka, TAC advice important, says Sudhakar; Oppn plans to raise shortage of drugs, beds

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

ALL eyes are on the all-party meeting scheduled at 3pm Monday, as the State government is set to announce more restrictions and extension of existing night curfew to contain the Covid-19 pandemic in the State. With Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa currently hospitalised for a Covid reinfection, Revenue Minister and deputy Chair for State Disaster Management Authority R Ashoka will head the all-party meeting.

Invitations for the meeting have been sent to MPs, MLAs and leaders of all parties to participate and provide their suggestions. Even as opposition parties are preparing to raise questions over the alleged shortage of beds, medicines and oxygen, apart from delay in deciding on exam schedules, ministers seem to be of different opinion on what the outcome of the meeting is likely to be.

While Ashoka has insisted that there will be no lockdown as per Yediyurappa's clear instructions, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar has insisted that the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) needs to be implemented. The TAC has been suggesting a brief lockdown for over a month now.

"Personal opinions do not matter. We have to accept scientific solutions to contain the pandemic, whether or not we like it. The State and Bengaluru's welfare is more important than our personal opinions. The Chief Minister will take the final call. Implementing scientific suggestions given by the Technical Advisory Committee becomes more important than decisions due to political or other reasons. This is a pandemic and a health emergency," said Sudhakar, speaking to reporters on Sunday.

Sources in the government, however, said that CM Yediyurappa is vehemently against a complete lockdown, and Ashoka confirmed the same on Sunday.

"There will be specific regulations and protocols for Bengaluru after the Chief Minister's approval. He has clearly said there will be no lockdown but tough restrictions will be imposed. He will take a call on whether night curfew will be extended. Last time around, thousands of people rushed to railway stations and bus stops. A lockdown will be an injustice to people's livelihoods. We should contain the pandemic but should not spoil people's lives and livelihood. We will take action in a way that doesn't impact the poor adversely. There will be no lockdown," Ashoka said, in contradiction to Sudhakar's stance.

To iron out differences ahead of the all-party meeting on Monday, Ashoka, Basavaraj Bommai and Sudhakar held an unofficial meeting at Kumarakrupa Guest House on Sunday.

The Congress, meanwhile, is keen on opposing a complete lockdown as well, and will urge the government instead, to focus on ramping up testing, vaccination and medical facilities. The party has also asked the State government to cancel examinations, given the situation.

Governor Vajubhai Vala interacts with officials on effective handling the surge in Covid cases, on Sunday | EXPRESS

## With CM in hospital, Guv calls for emergency meet on Covid situation

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Governor Vajubhai Vala on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of officials to take stock of the Covid-19 situation in the State. With Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa still hospitalised after Covid reinfection, the Governor sought details on availability of beds, ICUs, medicines and oxygen supply for patients in the State.

The emergency meeting, held on a Sunday, comes barely 24 hours after Governor Vala met and discussed the pandemic situation and preparedness in Karnataka with Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Saturday.

The back-to-back meetings and briefings chaired by the Governor come after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked States to fight the pandemic "under the leadership of Governors and guidance of Chief Ministers". On Sunday, Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister EV Ramana Reddy and Additional Chief Secretary of the health department Javed Akhtar met the Governor and made a submission of initiatives the State government has taken so far to handle the crisis.

"The Governor told them to take all necessary steps to bring the Covid-19 situation under control in the State. The steps included enough oxygen supply, medicines and beds for patients suffering from Covid-19," said a statement from the Raj Bhavan.

The Governor has adopted a more 'hands on' approach over the pandemic ever since the Prime Minister insisted that the office of the Governor should be utilised to its maximum. Governor Vala has held at least three such meetings in the past week.

OPPN CHARGE

## Govt has utterly failed to handle Covid, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TEARING into the government over its handling of the Covid-19 epidemic, KPCC President D K Shivakumar said the collective might of the government has failed to bring the coronavirus pandemic under control after 13 months.

It is a matter of life and death for the people, and the situation is going out of control. What kind of government are you running, he asked the BJP.

Till the pandemic blows over, those affected in the state should be given free healthcare, he said. "While the Chief Minister is himself indisposed and in hospital, I pray that he comes out safely soon."

> We are opposed to a general lockdown because the livelihood of people would be affected, the government needs to support people during the pandemic by providing for them. Who really benefited from the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus?
>
> D K Shivakumar, KPCC president

Opposing the idea of a lockdown as a control measure, Shivakumar said, "We are opposed to a general lockdown because the livelihood of people would be affected, the government needs to support people during the pandemic by providing for them. Who really benefited from the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus?"

As an opposition, the Congress has cooperated with the government on all counts, not questioning the frequent change in officials and ministers, he said.

Counting off the many private hospitals and thousands of ambulances, he said the government had used party halls and hotels as makeshift hospitals, yet people are not getting beds. Karnataka is a state with one of the highest number of hospitals, and the finest medical and healthcare workers, yet there is a shortage. He demanded that the black marketing of the Remdesivir injection be checked.

The Congress leader said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had claimed that India would win the war against Covid in 21 days, but it is more than a year, and the government has failed to control it.

On the issue of the transport workers' strike, he asked why the government cannot hold talks with transport workers. Whether they are right or wrong, they must be called and the issue resolved through dialogue. People have been put a lot of hardship and are spending from their own pockets to travel, Shivakumar said.

On the upcoming Zilla and Taluk Panchayat elections due in May, he said the present term of the rural bodies should be extended by six months, and the government should hold elections after the pandemic, considering it is a medical emergency.

Former JDS MLA K Raju and his supporters on Sunday joined the Congress in the presence of KPCC president D K Shivakumar, MP D K Suresh and other leaders in Bengaluru | SHRIRAM BN

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj protests against mismanagement of the Covid situation | EXPRESS

## Vatal slams govt for failure to manage Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

KANNADA Chaluvali Vatal Paksha leader Vatal Nagraj staged a solo protest in front of Jayachamarajendra Statue accusing the government of failing to contain the spread of Covid. He raised slogans against the government and asked officials to save the lives of the people.

Wishing CM B S Yediyurappa a speedy recovery, he only three ministers – Basavaraj Bommai, R Ashoka and K Sudhakar --are handling the situation. "Where are the other leaders and MPs?" he asked. Opposing the lockdown move, he said it will only add to the misery of people. Urging the government to close liquor shops and malls to contain the spread, Nagaraj said the opposition parties should join hands to tackle the situation

## Gandhi's autobiography, news keep BSY engaged

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa spent Sunday reading Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography 'My Experiments with Truth' in Kannada, besides daily newspapers, in his suite in Manipal Hospitals.

Yediyurappa, who was diagnosed with Covid-19, was admitted to hospital on Friday. He was treated for Covid last August too. "The Chief Minister is being monitored by a team of expert doctors, and is stable and recovering," sources in the hospital said.

> The Chief Minister is being monitored by a team of expert doctors, and is stable and recovering
>
> Manipal Hospsital sources

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa spends time reading books and nerwspapers on Sunday as he recuperates from a Covid reinfection | EXPRESS

The CM also spoke to officials and gave them necessary directions. It may be recalled that the all-party meeting over rising Covid numbers was scheduled to be held on Sunday, but was postponed. Yediyurappa is expected to participate in a meeting of city legislators that will be chaired by Revenue Minister R Ashoka, via video conference. The CMO said that CM Yediyurappa is likely to use his mobile to join in.

Yediyurappa is staying in the VVIP suite on the eleventh floor of Manipal Hospitals. The last time he was staying here, his daughter Aruna Devi was also admitted to hospital, and was in the adjoining suite. This time, however, there are no family members, and only those in PPE kits are admitted inside. His daughter Padmavati and other family members were seen inside the hospital on Sunday evening.

CM Yediyurappa took the first dose of vaccine on March 15, and is due to take his second dose sometime in May, in accordance with medical advice.

## RDPR ministry may ask EC to postpone TP, ZP elections

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI
@ Shivamogga:

WITH the sudden spurt in Covid cases across the state, there is talk that the government is likely to postpone the forthcoming Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat elections, just as it had put off the Gram Panachayat elections by six to seven months in 2020.

Earlier, the State government had clarified that it would go ahead with both the TP and ZP elections slated for May-end, but the situation has changed in a span of just 10-15 days, and there is a sharp spike in the number of Covid cases in rural areas too.

Highly places sources reveal that the RDPR ministry is planning to request the State Election Commission to postpone the elections.

Gram Panchayat elections were scheduled to be held in the summer of 2020, but with the lockdown being imposed, and a significant rise in the number of cases, elections were postponed. Later, the government deputed administrative officers to Gram Panchayats in the state.

Aspirants are eager to know whether TP and ZP elections will be held on schedule. "As most of the aspirants are planning to contest elections, like me, we want clarity on the issue," said Nagesh Naik, former GP president. They are confused whether to go ahead with groundwork, like getting the party ticket and putting their campaign strategy in place.

**Delimitation Done**

The State Election Commission completed the task of delimitation of TP and ZP constituencies. Accordingly, the number of ZP seats in the State increased by about 100, taking the total to 1,190 while TP seats were reduced by around 600 to 3,273. District election offices are engaged in preparing the voters' list. In the next two weeks, area-wise reservation of constituencies will be fixed before the official notification about elections.

If everything goes by the State Election Commission's plan, elections will be completed by May-end and the new body will function from June. Earlier, RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa had clarified that elections for TP and ZP will be held during the specified time period.

If the government is thinking of postponing elections, it has to submit a request to the Election Commission, but this is as yet undecided. If elections are postponed, the government has to appoint administrative officers for TPs and ZPs in the state.

50% QUOTA

## 'No hospital can deny bed'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HEALTH Commissioner Dr Thrilok Chandra said he willlook into the issue, while Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the State Government is committed to ensuring timely treatment for all Covid-infected people. He said he has held several meetings with private hospitals and medical colleges to reserve 50 per cent of beds for Covid treatment and has personally paid surprise visits to check compliance. "No hospital should deny treatment to any Covid or non-Covid patient. Strict action will be taken against such hospitals including revoking of their licence," he said, adding that he has instructed hospitals not to admit asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients, who can be under home isolation or at CCCs, to free up beds for those who need them.

He said he suggested to hospitals to set up makeshift units in collaboration with nearby hotels for those who do not need hospital beds. "I request people to not panic and seek hospitalisation only after they test positive. 95 per cent of the infected do not need hospitalisation and can recover at home. I urge people to get tested at the first sign of any symptom."

EXPERT SPEAK

## *Watch out for new symptoms, get a jab to win battle*

THE battle against Corona is not over yet. It's time to take guard again. Last September, the load of Covid cases on each day was nearing the 1-lakh mark and then subsequently the cases started to dip. After a gap of few months, the daily cases are witnessing a steady rise in the country again. The cases which were hovering around 10,000 in January have shot up drastically to breach the 1-lakh mark in April. India became the second country in the world after the US to record more than one lakh cases every day.

**What are the reasons for the spike?**

The discovery of the double-mutant variant of the virus and the public's laxity fuelled the second wave of infections across the country. Just go back in time to last year and recall how strictly people wore masks, followed social distancing and mandatorily sanitized their hands.

People religiously followed the Covid-appropriate behaviour back in 2020. From then onwards, as weeks progressed, people's attitude was lax towards Covid precautions. They are not wearing their masks properly. We have been seeing people crowding markets, using public transport, attending family celebrations and election rallies without following Covid protocols.

DR PRADEEP RANGAPPA
Senior Consultant - Critical Care, Columbia Asia Referral Hospital, Yeshwanthpur

**What safety precautions one should follow?**

Though we did not have any vaccine last year, we followed Covid protocols and successfully got the Covid spread under control. India's vaccine drive started only in mid-January. The Health Ministry has expressed concern that the next four weeks is very crucial to curb the surge. Without the participation of the public, it is difficult for any nation to curb the spiralling cases.

Follow Covid-appropriate behaviour without fail wherever you go. Wear your masks and keep sanitising your hands. Try to avoid crowded places. Opt for work from home if your company permits. Maintain social distancing at office, market place, shopping malls etc so that we can break the chain. Also avoiding the 3'C's – closed spaces, crowded spaces and close contacts -- will have a big impact in the fight against Covid. Japan is one country which is following the rule diligently.

**New symptoms you shouldn't ignore**

Unlike the classic symptoms of Covid, research from hospitals across the country shows new symptoms. Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, body pain and cold are some of the symptoms exhibited by Corona-positive patients recently. Even in the absence of well-known symptoms, like fever or cough, doctors advise a person to get tested in case of the new symptoms.

**Vaccination crucial for all**

Coronavirus can have severe and life-threatening complications. There is no way to know how Covid will manifest in you. If you get infected, you could spread the disease among your family and friends. Along with measures to reduce the chance of being infected, vaccines will reduce the chances of infection. People who are heeding to the rumours and refusing vaccination should realise that they are potentially prolonging the pandemic by contributing to the spike in cases and providing all the opportunities for the virus to mutate.

As of now, vaccination is open for people aged 45 and above. The government is being advised to open vaccination for all above 18 years. If you are eligible for vaccination, immediately get the shots and save the world from the clutches of the virus.

Bhubaneswar: As fresh dates have been announced for bypoll to Pipili constituency, demand is growing within the Congress to field Bandana Mangaraj, wife of deceased candidate Ajit Mangaraj, as the party nominee.

# RT-PCR MADE MANDATORY TO ENTER KERALA

With over 18,000 new patients on Sunday, test positivity rate stood at 16.77 per cent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

SCALING yet another peak in the adding most number of Covid-19 patients in a day the state reported as many as 18,257 cases on Sunday. There were 13,835 patients on Saturday.

The high number of patients on consecutive days was due to the mega test campaign by including over 3 lakh people on Friday and Saturday. The test positivity rate stood at 16.77 percent from the 1,08,898 samples tested on the previous 24 hours. There were 25 deaths to take the total toll to 4929. The Chief Secretary VP Joy has issued an order allocating ₹ 5 crore each to the district collectors to meet the expenses of Covid containment.

**More restrictions**

In the wake of worsening Covid-19 situation the health department has RT-PCR tests mandatory for all domestic travellers within 48 hours before or after the arrival in the state. The department issued an order on Sunday making the Covid-19 test mandatory for all visitors irrespective of their vaccination status. All travellers have to register in e-Jagratha portal. The department has started enforcing the quarantine rules since April 7. The strict enforcement came after health experts have warned of the people infected with mutant variants for the fresh spike.

Those undertaking RT-PCR test on arrival shall be in room isolation at their respective places of stay till RT-PCR report is available, the order said. If RT -PCR test is negative, the person shall follow strict Covid protocol - universal masking, safe distancing and hand hygiene - during their stay in the state. Those who are not willing to undergo the test shall have to remain in room isolation for 14 days from date of entry to Kerala and do self-observation regarding symptoms. The state made RT-PCR mandatory for all international travellers since January. The people living near Kaliyikkavila in Kerala - Tamil Nadu border faced difficulties after the byroads were closed by the TN police.

| Covid Count In States | |
|---|---|
| Kerala | 18,257 |
| Karnataka | 19,067 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 10,723 |
| Telangana | 5,093 |
| Odisha | 3,664 |

**Vaccination app in Andhra**

Coming Monday, the state will start using a new smartphone application, developed by the state health department, for online monitoring of the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination drive.

**HEAT IS ON**

Local youngsters taking a dip in Bhubaneswar on Sunday | BISWANATH SWAIN

# Univ exams postponed following Guv's order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

IN the wake of the steep surge in Covid-19 infection in the state, all university examinations which were scheduled from Monday have been postponed indefinitely. The revised dates will be announced later. The postponed examinations of Kerala university are likely to be rescheduled from May 10 based on the circumstances then , said the Controller of Examinations in a statement. The decision was taken by the respective Vice-Chancellors following the instruction of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Sunday. The examinations of Kerala University of Health Sciences, Calicut university,Kerala University, MG university, Malayalam university, Sanskrit university and KTU which were scheduled to begin on Monday, have been postponed. Earlier in the day, the Governor instructed all the Vice-chancellors of the universities in the state to postpone all the offline university examinations. The Governor has given the instructions following the request from Shashi Tharoor MP through a tweet. Tharoor in his tweet said that the conduct of examinations during the worsening condition of pandemic is a matter of concern.

# BJP to move HC seeking repoll in Tirupati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tirupati

ALLEGING that a large-scale of polling irregularities in the just concluded Tirupati Lok Sabha by-elections. The BJP party is gearing up to file a petition in the Andhra Pradesh high court demanding the cancellation of polls and seeking fresh polling in the Tirupati assembly constituency.

BJP state spokesperson Samanchi Srinivas alleged that the YCP cadres have mobilised thousands of people from Chittoor, Karvetinagaram, Punganur, Chandragiri, Cherlopalli and other areas to Tirupati on the election day to cast pseudo votes. He said the YCP activists with help of official machinery have cast at least 40,000 votes in the by-election. He said that the party will file the petition along with the evidence and polling booth numbers where poll malpractices have taken place.

# TTD to minimise pilgrims' rush from May 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tirumala

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to minimise the rush of pilgrims to just 15,000 per day from May 1. It will reduce the ₹300 Seeghra Darshan ticket quota to 15,000 from the present 25,000 per day to minimise devotee rush at Tirumala. The TTD released the April quota of Seeghra Darshan tickets in March end.

With the spike in Covid-19 cases in Chittoor district and more particularly in Tirupati urban limits, it has been decided to reduce the issuance of Seeghra Darshan tickets. The daily Covid count of Chittoor is more than 1,000 for the past three days and its overall tally have surged past the 1 lakh-mark. Of the total count, majority of Covid cases have been reported from Tirupati urban mandal.

"We will release the reduced Seeghra Darshan ticket quota for May on April 20 instead of 25th of every month," Temple Deputy Executive Officer Harindranath told TNIE.

The TTD had cancelled the issuance of free darshan tokens from April 1 in view of Covid spread. However, it will continue VIP break darshan and also entertain recommendation letters from the trustees, which will not be more than 2,000 a day. The temple administration has taken all necessary steps to contain the spread of Covid. Sanitisation of queue lines and the temple premises has been entrusted to the health department.

Meanwhile, the TTD has announced that the annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy temple at Vontimitta in Kadapa district will be celebrated in Ekantham in view of Covid. The temple Brahmotsavams are scheduled from April 21 to 29. "As there is a sharp spike in Covid cases in the State in recent weeks, it has been decided to organise the Vontimitta temple Brahmotsavams in Ekantham this year also. All Vahana Sevas as well as Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam, which is slated for April 26, will be organised in Ekantham," the TTD said. On the other hand, the TTD has decided to vaccinate all its staff and their family members without any age restriction and the vaccination drive will begin on Monday or Tuesday. Considering the plea of the TTD, The State government has allotted 6,000 doses of Covid vaccine to the temple staff and their family members. "As devotees from every nook and corner of the country and even from abroad visit the shrine, the TTD staff have to be administered Covid vaccine. As there is a risk of contracting the virus by their family members, they will also be given Covid jabs," TTD Additional Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy said. To administer Covid vaccine to all the temple staff and their family members, the TTD has evolved a 48-hour programme. The health department is making arrangements in the ground floor of Ram Bagicha Guest House to administer Covid vaccine to the TTD staff and their family members. As many as 14 centres will be set up to register the names of staff and their family members and administer Covid vaccine to them.

# 'Surveys on to identify housing spots'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE state has 12 crafts complex clusters, including at Mysuru, Sirsi, Sagar, Bidar, Shivamogga, Bengaluru and Channapatana, where housing complexes too can be constructed.

The officials have also approached the Textiles Department, under which handicrafts falls, and written to the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation to consider available schemes. The department has contacted Housing Minister V Somanna but is waiting for a reply. One of the main schemes that is under consideration is the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and to see if it allows vertical housing schemes.

KSHDC Managing Director D Roopa told *The New Indian Express* that surveys are being done at places where the housing complexes could be built. The survey will also tot up the number of artisans who require housing.

The department has properties that are over 30-40 years old, but parts of which are being used for various purposes now. These spaces can be freed up for building apartments, she said. "Under the Awas Yojana, a percentage of the cost of the construction is borne by the Centre, while the rest has to be put in by the State Government. We need to be practical," she said.

As per their study till now, there is no scheme across the country that allows vertical housing. Clarity is being sought, she added.

# Night curfew, complete Sunday lockdown in TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

IT seems like 2021 is taking a slow U-turn to 2020. On a day Tamil Nadu recorded more than 10,000 new Covid cases, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced a set of restrictions starting Tuesday early morning, to control the spread of the disease.

The key announcements include a Statewide curfew from 10 pm to 4 am, and postponement of the Class 12 board exams. The 'Sunday lockdown', too, is back, and even grocery stores will have to remain shut. On other days, shops must close at 9 pm, and only 50 per cent occupancy will be allowed. While theatres and restaurants may function at 50 per cent capacity, all tourist places, including beaches, are closed to the public (details in graphics).

The new rules were announced after the CM chaired a high-level meeting at his camp office on Sunday. The government said the restrictions will be in force until further orders, and warned of legal action against violators. Referring to the five-time increase in the number of infectees (from 13,070 to 65,350) within 20 days, the government attributed it to non-compliance with safety norms.

Migrant labourers throng Central railway station to catch Howrah Mail suspecting lockdown in Chennai on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

Public health experts welcomed the restrictions, saying there is no other choice. Former director of Public Health, Dr K Kolandasamy, said, "This may prevent the spread now, but what is the guarantee that there won't be a third wave? Enforcement of mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand-washing is key."

Infectious diseases specialist Dr Subramanian Swaminathan said, "First, we have to accept that there is a problem, and the government must strictly enforce the restrictions. Otherwise, people may think it's a joke. I would like to see intent from the government." He added that if not for the restrictions, there may be anarchy in hospitals, with a shortage of beds and ventilators.

But experts felt restrictions must be enforced indoors as well, where there is no ventilation. "Hospitals and closed spaces are becoming a major hotspot for the spread. Places without ventilation must be shut," said Dr Kolandasamy. The announcement came on a day Tamil Nadu reported 10,723 fresh Covid cases and 42 deaths. Senior health officials have, meanwhile, confirmed to *Express* that the State only has stock of vaccines for three more days. With the footfall at centres increasing rapidly, the State's 11.5 lakh doses on April 13 depleted to just 4.33 lakh doses on Sunday.

# Covid claims international hockey umpire Anupama

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

INTERNATIONAL hockey umpire from Karnataka Mundanda Anupama aka Puchimanda Anupama (40) passed away due to Covid-19 complications early Sunday morning.

Anupama, a Bengalurean, had participated in several international hockey tournaments, including the women's Asia Cup hockey 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Former Indian national team player Sandeep Somesh, who has served as the Indian National Women's Team Hockey coach said, "Puchimanda Anupama was an active member of the hockey circuit and a good referee. It is a sad moment. She had come up the hard way."

Olympian and Indian national hockey star Ashish Ballal, who has represented India in 275 international matches, said, "She is a role model for all Karnataka women athletes, being an umpire at the highest level, refereeing international tournaments. She put her heart and soul into hockey and was a very good umpire. It is very shocking to hear this."

**'COVID-RECOVERED NEEDN'T RUSH FOR JAB'**

KOCHI: Acute shortage of vaccine doses across the state has resulted in the mass vaccination drive being suspended in various districts. Ambitious plans by the state government to vaccinate all above 45 years of age have been put on hold till new batches of vaccines arrive. In the wake of the shortage, experts have opined that those who recovered from Covid-19 infection in recent times need not rush to take the vaccination, as their immune systems would have already acquired antibodies. Further, in such cases, the second dose of vaccination can also be delayed, as it would be more beneficial for those who are yet to be vaccinated, they say.

EXPRESS READ

**Three held, 70 phones recovered**

Bengaluru: The VV Puram police have arrested three youths and recovered 70 mobile phones, which were allegedly stolen by them. The accused have been identified as Imran Khan alias Bada Macchar (24), who works at a stickering shop in JC Nagar, his brother Irfan Pasha alias Chota Macchar, who sells apparel in Majestic, and Raju Singh (27), who runs a mobile phone service shop in Gandhinagar. Police said the brothers were asked to stop their bike during a routine check on KR Road on April 14, but they did not stop. Police, however, managed to catch them. When their bag was checked, police uncovered 12 mobile phones, which were allegedly stolen by them in VV Puram, Chamarajapet, and City Market.

# Cases of UTI seen among patients with Covid-19

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

DOCTORS in the city are noticing several cases of Covid patients developing urinary tract infections (UTI), during this second wave. This trend is especially more apparent in the age groups of 20-60 years.

While the exact reason for this is unknown, doctors suspect it could be due to inflammation of the urinary tract caused by the viral infection. At Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road, a 50-year-old male patient, who had tested Covid-positive, came in complaining of a burning sensation and pain while passing urine, which was diagnosed as UTI. He developed these symptoms while recovering from Covid. With treatment, he recovered from the UTI.

Dr Deepak Dubey, HOD & Consultant - Urology, Robotic Surgery and Renal Transplantation, Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road, stated, "We treat 10-12 Covid patients with UTI each month. These cases have spiked by about 5 per cent in the past year."

Dr Suriraju, Chief Urologist at Regal Hospital, stated that having UTI symptoms does not mean one has Covid, but since there are a few cases that have presented UTI symptoms at various places, getting tested when there is any sort of indication is always safe.

Dr Pruthu Narendra Dhekane, Consultant - Infectious Diseases, Fortis Hospitals Bannerghatta Road said steroid treatment and poorly controlled diabetes are the most common causes of UTI in Covid patients. "Clinically, if the presentation is classical, suggesting UTI, then a patient need not test for Covid. However, if there are other symptoms... then it's important to get a test done," said Dr Dhekane.

# BMTC driver injured after bus stoned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A gang of three threw stones on a BMTC bus, leaving its the driver with head injuries. The incident took place at Vigneshwaranagar bus stop in Kamakshipalya on Sunday evening. A Hoysala police team rushed to the spot and shifted the driver to hospital.

The injured has been identified as Nanjunde Gowda (43), a resident of Jalahalli. A senior police officer said that around 4.15 pm, the bus was heading towards Jalahalli, and three men hit it with stones. The front glass was damaged and the driver was injured. The incident was caught on CCTV and the police have identified the accused. "Efforts are on to nab them. They were furious over the bus being operated during the ongoing protest by state transport corporation employees," he said.

**KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka under Taking)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL JBC Division No.2, Bheemarayanagudi. Tq: Shahapur Dist: Yadgiri,**
Email Id: eejbc2@gmail.com

NO. KBJNL/JBC Divn-2/PB/2021-22/1216 Date: 08-03-2021

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)**

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL. Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, JBC Division No.2 Bheemarayanagudi. Tq: Shahapur , Dist: Yadgir invites short term percentage tenders in two Covers system from the eligible contractors registered in KBJNL/ KPWD for work mentioned in the table below.

The blank tenders can be obtained through www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box.

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORKS PUT TO E- TENDERING**

1) Work details : **Indent No.20619, 20613, 20622, 20481 & 20625,** 2) Amount Put to tender: Maximum Rs. 120.73 Lakhs & Minimum Rs. 52.72 Lakhs, 3) The contractor can have access to the electronic document, i.e Tender Schedules, bid documents and other documents in the website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment of tender processing fee (non-refundable): **From 19.04.2021 From 11.30 Hrs.,** 4) The last date & time for submission of electronic documents through e-portal : **27.04.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs.,** 5) Date & time for opening of electronic document first (Technical bid): **29.04.2021 @11.30 Hrs.,** 6) The electronic document second (financial bid) of pre-qualified contractor will opened on: **02.05.2021** or After approval of Technical bid, 7) For more information contact details: Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, JBC Division-02, Bheemarayangudi of Shahapur Taluka, Yadgir, 8) Website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

**NOTE:** - Further information may be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours or from **http:www.eprocurement.Karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
DIP/Yadgiri/24/MC&A/2021-22 **KBJNL, JBC, Division.No-2, Bheemarayanagudi.**

# EDITORIAL

What is critical for the maintenance of pegged exchange rates is protection for governments from pressure to trade exchange rate stability for other goals

Barry Eichengreen

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## THE TORTUOUS ROAD TOWARDS PEACE IN AF

With President Joe Biden setting a September 11 timetable for full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and NATO expected to follow suit, the task of persuading the Taliban to get into some sort of participative democratic governance till fresh elections are held is imperative. A bilateral meeting in Turkey between the Afghan government and the Taliban to evolve this mechanism is slated for the last week of April, but the latter insists it would stay away till all foreign security forces leave and set a May 1 deadline. That it is playing a dangerous game of creating a security vacuum to grab full power is well understood and cannot be allowed. The Taliban also glosses over the fact that there are over 7,000 foreign terrorists on its soil freely indulging in bloodsport. According to an estimate, more than 40,000 civilians, 65,000 Afghan security personnel and over 42,000 Taliban fighters have so far died in the civil war over the last two decades.

Just a few months ago, the US brought India to the Afghan table, irking Pakistan, which has nurtured the Taliban for its geopolitical ambitions for long. India's positive record of promoting development in all districts of the country is indisputable. Foreign minister S Jaishankar has since underlined the need for an Afghan led, owned and controlled negotiation, adding that peace within the nation and its neighbourhood is mandatory for the process to be durable. Fears of the country slipping back to the brutal rule seen in the 1990s cannot be brushed aside, as the Taliban's belief in democratic processes is rather limited. Also, the Taliban itself is not a monolith; it has multiple factions serving different interests. Since that would erase the gains Afghanistan made over the last two decades in various spheres, including minority and female rights, the role of international institutions like the UN in catalysing the peace process would be vital.

One hopes the international community does not lose interest after the initial burst of activity and leave Afghanistan to its own devices. Cultivating a taste in participative democracy and the rule of law among the trigger-happy warlords and incubating it needs loads of time and patience.

## COVID PATENT WAIVER NEED OF THE HOUR

These are truly testing times, even for political philosophies upheld by nations. Recently, a group of 175 eminent personalities—mostly comprising Nobel laureates and former world leaders—wrote to US president Joe Biden, seeking "urgent action" to suspend intellectual property rights for Covid vaccines. The letter campaign has come just days after India and South Africa reiterated a similar appeal to the WTO. The proposal, first tabled in October 2020, has found the backing of over a 100 nations.

Is a waiver on patents for Covid vaccines necessary? Even as the spirit of vaccine nationalism runs high across the world, scientists have, in no unclear terms, explained that Covid cannot be brought under control unless all nations have equitable access to vaccines, drugs and testing kits. A significant failure in ensuring this equity, many experts believe, is the primary reason why a second wave was experienced after the success of initial containment measures. Even now, as India is witnessing a second wave, equity is not a part of global policy on tackling Covid. As per estimates, the world needs around 11 billion doses of vaccines to immunise at least 70% of the global population. Of these 11 billion, orders have been confirmed for 8.6 billion doses, of which a substantial 6 billion are for high and upper-middle income countries, says an analysis in *Nature*. In fact, half the doses administered so far have been in Europe and North America, while poorer nations—which account for 80% of the global population—have access to less than one-thirds of the available doses.

Considering these data, it's imperative that nations decide upon a patent waiver, not just on vaccines but on all treatment requirements. As noted economist Joseph Stiglitz pointed out, pharma firms have already made considerable profits through public funding made available for vaccine research. A temporary waiver will not cause them any harm. The key here is to put public good ahead of private profits, which means taking a step back from traditional capitalist approaches to reassess our response to this crisis.

The relative stability in the Middle East appears to have convinced the US regime that the danger from extremist Islam is secondary compared to the threat from China

## UNDERSTANDING BIDEN'S DECISION ON AFGHANISTAN

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

AMIT BANDRE

Joe Biden as US President is proving to be far more decisive in understanding American interests, capabilities and the limits of power than most of his predecessors. Early in his tenure, the decision to 'get the hell out' of an unwinnable war in Afghanistan has taken many by surprise. The compulsion to launch the war after the tumultuous events of 9/11 cannot be discounted but to recognise the expediency or lack of it to achieve decisive victory seemed to have eluded US strategic leadership for almost two decades. For all their intellectual insights into US interests, the American strategic community and the military failed to converge their thinking. George Bush left behind two raging overseas wars and an economic situation like none before. Barack Obama failed to be convinced by the military leadership that a surge with a pre-announced date of pullback only meant steeling the adversary's resolve, that too in a region that has seen only a history of defeat for the invader. After achieving the high mark of the elimination of Osama bin Laden in 2011, Obama's policy went haywire, unclear on what the aim of military presence in Afghanistan was all about. The larger threat to US interests then was the spiralling pan-Islamic extremism. The rise of the ISIS in the Middle East and its efforts to expand into Central Asia kept the Donald Trump administration on the blink; although a full withdrawal was perhaps outlined most clearly by Trump before Biden's current decision.

There are two schools of thought in the US. The first views American security through the prism of the threat of Islamic extremism—a 9/11-inspired perception that imagines that the fight against Islam has only just begun. This is the view of those in the Pentagon who theorised the Long War against extremist Islam and perceived the Af-Pak region as the core centre of its ideology; the control of this territory and effecting eventual change through socio-economic and political domains was the intent of persistent US presence. The delivery of the intent wasn't attempted with any strategy in mind; it was just a situation in drift. For most of the time there were weak and purposeless conflict termination attempts. The Taliban and to a very great extent Pakistan were following their game plan, waiting and watching for the final decision on withdrawal that they knew was inevitable. The second school of thought considers the relative stability in the Middle East, the weakening and displacement of the ISIS, the changing ideological scene in Saudi Arabia, and possibility of the end of the Yemen war to be adequate developments to signal the need for a reshaping of US priorities. This perception appears to have convinced the Biden administration that Afghanistan, the Middle East and the danger from extremist Islam are all secondary in comparison to the threat from China towards US interests in the Indo-Pacific. Staying alive to being the world's policeman and committing troops to situations that are designed to frustrate and clearly unwinnable are no longer a US strategy. It wishes to reshape the order to meet the next threat—from China, something which became distinctly clearer in the last 15 months. It is willing to take a risk, although ideally it would like an arrangement by which a degree of stability is assured in Afghanistan.

The complexity that Afghanistan provides in international politics can be gauged by the fact that issues related to it bring a difference of perception even between nations whose friendship is supposed to be 'deeper than the oceans and higher than the skies', Pakistan and China. The US withdrawal is fully endorsed by Pakistan, in whose perception it will be Islamabad's victory, enabling it to go back to its bad old ways in cooperation with the Taliban. However, China isn't too happy with that on two counts. Firstly, the return of the Taliban spells potential for the return of extremist Islamic agenda to the region. China is worried because Afghanistan also has a short border with its Xinjiang province where the Uyghur Muslim minority has been at the receiving end of Chinese atrocities; it probably expects a backlash there. Secondly, China will always be happy to witness US security commitments at diverse dispersed points around the world. From multiple Middle East conflicts to Europe's borders with Russia and to Afghanistan, security commitments of the US have helped the Chinese stave off serious American involvement in countering their not-so-peaceful rise. China has ensured that it does not get prematurely involved in attempts at being the world's policeman; that has helped immensely in conserving resources and focus in its prime areas of interest.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan is fully endorsed by Pakistan, which believes this will help it go back to its bad old ways in cooperation with the Taliban. However, China's isn't too happy with Biden's decision

The first of the effects of the Biden decision is what appears to be a shot in the arm for Pakistan, in terms of its strategic importance. The US would now depend on it to keep the Taliban in control and expects that Pakistan, having suffered the tremors of internal turbulence for almost four years, would probably be more inclined to prevent resurgence of extremist Islamic ideology in the region. The Chinese have a similar hope from Pakistan.

Clearly, Biden, having overridden the concerns of the Pentagon, is signalling the hurry that he is in to place the structures for the next contestation—with China—which he thinks is far more important than the Long War. What can be expected is greater energy in moving the Quad and the Plus version to something more substantial than just a consultative platform. So what is in it for India? It is sitting at the high table at Istanbul where the future matrix for Afghanistan will be discussed and decided. With or without final agreement with the Taliban, a post-withdrawal Afghanistan is unlikely to remain stable. Any attempts to get an Indian military involvement in peacekeeping expeditionary roles must not be entertained by the Indian establishment. We must hasten the establishment of ties with the Taliban in whatever way we can to maintain more balance. We will have to have to deal with a buoyant and unpredictable Pakistan limited in scope by its own economic disarray. There remains scope for Sino-Russian-Indian cooperation too to address their common concerns on Afghanistan. Clearly, India's strategic importance is on a high, in a way never before seen.

*(atahasnain@gmail.com)*

## DOES DEVALUING OUR CURRENCY HELP EXPORTS?

KARAN BHASIN

New Delhi-based economist

The rupee has been in the news over the last few days and it breached the 75 mark recently. When it comes to currency, there are two conflicting interests: Those who import would desire a stronger currency while those who export prefer a weaker one.

However, a currency that is weakened substantially may result in increased cost of imports that may spill over to production costs in case of inputs being imported. This is what makes it important to strike the right balance when it comes to the value of currency.

Currency manipulations were thought to have potentially destabilising effects over the long term, but there are instances where countries have deliberately kept their currency undervalued to benefit their exporters. The recent statements by the US about naming China a currency manipulator are largely driven by concerns about the fair value of the Chinese Renminbi. Japan too has been accused of the same in the past. The strategy of currency manipulation does help the country that attempts to keep its currency undervalued as it is able to benefit its exporters and attract a greater share of global trade. However, it was ignored that this growth came at the expense of other economies and thus, it could spark a global drive to devalue currencies, which would permanently damage global financial stability.

Since the last many years, there has been greater scrutiny on currency market interventions because the world recognises them as an active part of trade policy as practised by many countries. This has, to some extent, prevented the extent of interventions that occurred till as recently as a decade or two ago. However, such interventions continue to happen as most countries attempt to have a managed float.

While many view price stability as the core objective of monetary masters, the key aim was always to maintain the stability of the purchasing power of a currency. This meant keeping an eye on inflation and also on the exchange rates. Of course, impossible trinity meant that it had its own limitations while New Keynesian Economics resulted in many believing that having stable domestic inflation should help maintain a steady exchange rate. The bulk of these beliefs are now being challenged in the post-Covid environment.

There is a need to allow market forces to guide the process of finding the appropriate level for the rupee-USD exchange rate ... Any attempt to artificially elevate the value of the rupee will be counterproductive, just as any attempt to undervalue the currency may not yield the desired results

Having said so, let us recognise that while some of our competitors intervened to keep their currency weaker, our interventions were largely focused on keeping the rupee stronger. This was done for several reasons: first, of course, is our dependence on imports, and second is the political narrative built around the value of rupee. Somehow, most people continue to believe that a higher value of the rupee represents a stronger economy—nothing can be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, a weaker rupee would have probably helped us in the sense that it would have allowed our companies to remain competitive at a time when other East Asian economies were tinkering with their currencies.

The key question that remains to be answered is whether a weaker currency may benefit our exports. In 2021, perhaps a weaker currency may not be sufficient to boost our exports, but an overvalued currency will almost certainly have an adverse impact on them. Incidentally, in *Devaluating to Prosperity*, Surjit S Bhalla illustrated how misaligned currency can have substantial growth effects. However, his key finding towards the end of the book was that the strategy of using devaluations to boost domestic growth was unlikely to be successful given that everyone is well aware of the same. Thus, a beggar thy neighbour approach may no longer be one that can be adopted as a successful strategy for promoting exports.

Therefore, there is a need to allow market forces to guide the process of finding the appropriate level for the rupee-USD exchange rate rather than attempt to keep it at its present levels. The process may result in either a higher price for the dollar or a lower one depending on how things evolve over the coming months. But any attempt to artificially elevate the value of the rupee will be counterproductive, just as any attempt to undervalue the currency may not yield the desired results.

We must keep in mind that prolonged currency misalignment does come with costs and the economies that do not recognise the same have to face the heat eventually.

*(karanbhasin95@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

### Great tribute

As a reader of this newspaper for over three decades, I am proud that on the birthday remembrance of Ramnath Goenka, the fearless doyen of journalism, the article *Cremations don't matter when PM-Cares* was published along with his picture. The column, on the sad state of governance in India, is the best tribute to honour his memory.

**Biju C Mathew, Thiruvananthapuram**

### Mismanagement in Maha

The article analyses the Covid mismanagement in Gujarat and Uttarakhand well. But I thought it would also touch upon the mishandling in Maharashtra, the state worst affected by the virus and where a minister close to Sharad Pawar was busy collecting money through cops while Covid was raging.

**Manoj Kumar Sinha, Visakhapatnam**

### Double standards

RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav was granted bail in a fodder scam case. Even when he was in jail, he was treated as a VVIP. He was provided with the best medical facilities, apart from other benefits like access to TV, newspapers, etc. However, most of these perks are not available to ordinary inmates and undertrials languishing in jails for years.

**S Ravindranath, Bengaluru**

### Was not just an actor

The untimely demise of actor Vivekh is a great loss for Tamil cinema. Influenced by former President Abdul Kalam, he tried to create a greener environment with his project of planting one million saplings, an endeavour that speaks volumes about his contributions towards society during his lifetime.

**A P Thiruvadi, Chennai**

### Humour with a message

Vivekh was not only an actor who made people laugh with his socially conscious humour but also an environmental activist. Even recently, he tried to counter vaccine hesitancy. May his soul rest in peace.

**N Nagarajan, Secunderabad**

### Big pharma's greed

This is with reference to *Covid & the greed of big pharma, developed nations* (Apr 16). The author has vividly highlighted the biased attitude of the WTO and developed nations, which have for months ignored a proposal from India and South Africa over a temporary waiver on intellectual property rights to combat Covid. Even during the pandemic, pharma firms are trying to reap windfall profits.

**S K Prakash, Chennai**

### Avoid crowding

In view of the surge in coronavirus cases and unprecedented deaths in many cities, the prime minister was right in requesting the sadhus to conclude Kumbh Mela early and let it be symbolic. At the same time, big political rallies also must be stopped to avoid large gatherings. If corona-appropriate behaviour is not followed properly, the situation may go out of hand.

**Ram Saran Singh, Bengaluru**

### Took a toll on sleep too

The initial nationwide lockdown clearly took a toll on almost everyone's sleep schedule. We should prioritise sleep as it is very crucial for getting other things done right. Moreover, sleeplessness is an important cause of road accidents.

**Sanaaya Khandpur, Mangaluru**

### No room for complacency

Self-restraint is the only way to combat Covid. We need to follow all coronavirus norms on our own without waiting for governments to enforce them through fines. Callousness on our part would make matters worse.

**Sidheswar Dalai, Bhubaneswar**

### Who framed the scientist?

The Supreme Court order for a probe on the framing of former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan is fair. No person, be it police personnel or political leaders of any party, instrumental in causing damage to the life of the senior scientist should be allowed to go scot-free. The scientist himself is not vengeful, but the probe is needed as it will ensure that the unimaginable wrong done to him is not repeated in this land.

**Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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**TWEETS OF THE DAY**

**Prashant Bhushan** @pbhushan1
More than the virus, the more frightening thing is the fear mongering & censorship to a point when it becomes impossible to share alternative views

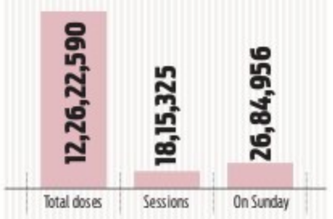
**Jairam Ramesh** @Jairam_Ramesh
When will the PM and the Home Minister stop campaigning and do their jobs? The nation is hurtling from one Modi-made disaster to the next!

**Harsh Vardhan** @drharshvardhan
Projected demand of high-burden states mapped with supplies. Oxygen production being maximised and diverted from industrial use to medical use

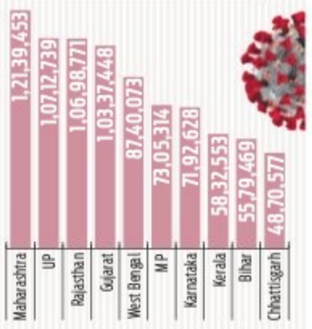
## VACCINATION

Day 92

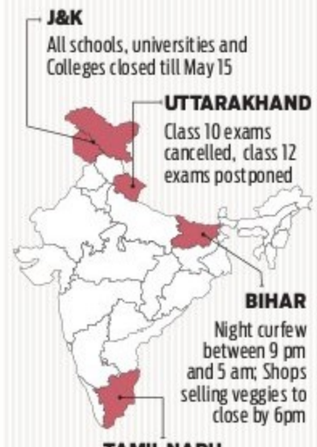
**1 crore**
doses each administered in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and UP




**MOST BENEFICIARIES**




**VIRUS IMPACT**


J&K
All schools, universities and Colleges closed till May 15
UTTARAKHAND
Class 10 exams cancelled, class 12 exams postponed
BIHAR
Night curfew between 9 pm and 5 am; Shops selling veggies to close by 6pm
TAMIL NADU
Night curfew between 10 pm and 4 am from April 20. Full lockdown on Sundays. Class 12th board exams postponed.

People line up for Covid tests at Patna railway station after arriving from Maharashtra | PTI

### *JEE-Mains postponed*

New Delhi: Engineering entrance exam JEE-Mains scheduled to be held from April 27-30 has been postponed in view of the COVID-19 situation, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced on Sunday. "Given the #covid19 situation, I have advised @DG_NTA to postpone the JEE (Main) ' 2021 April Session. I would like to reiterate that safety of our students & their academic career are @EduMinOfIndia's and my prime concerns right now," Nishank tweeted. Revised dates will be announced later and at least 15 days before the examination.

### *Fresh clamps in Northeast*

Guwahati: The sudden spike in Covid-19 cases has made the states in the Northeast re-enforce the restrictions. In Assam, all schools up to Class V will remain closed in districts which recorded over 100 fresh cases. Meghalaya had on Saturday recorded 95 cases which took the number of its active cases to 649. The state government has made it mandatory for visitors to register themselves in the official COVID portal. The entrants, other than those from the Northeast, shall carry a valid RT-PCR/CBNATT/TrueNat negative report. The state government of Manipur government has imposed strict curfew measures from 8pm to 4am.

# Maha fight over 'seizure' of drug

Remdesivir vials stocked at firm prompts MVA leaders to accuse BJP of hoarding

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

DISCOVERY of a large stock of Remdesivir injections from a pharmaceutical company has become the latest flashpoint between the government of Maharashtra and the opposition led by BJP. While Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders alleged that BJP was hoarding the drug given to Covid-19 patients in serious conditions, saffron party officials claimed they had bought this to donate it to the state government.

This happened on a day when Maharashtra recorded its highest-ever daily tally of 68,631 new cases.

Mumbai Police got information that around 60,000 vials of Remdesivir was stocked by the company. "The stock could not be exported due to the ban by government of India. The director of this company was called for questioning at BKC Police Station," said a police statement. After hearing the news, Devendra Fadanivs and other BJP leaders rushed to the police station and asked why the director of Bruck Pharmaceutical was being questioned. The director was released after questioning.

Incidentally, two technical directors of Bruck Pharmaceutical - Manish Singh and Varun Kundra - were arrested in Gujarat a few days ago on charges of selling Remdesivir at an inflated price in the black market.

Fadnavis claimed they had taken necessary steps to arrange this stock. "Four days ago, we had requested Bruck Pharma to supply a stock of Remdesivir vials to Maharashtra. They said they couldn't until permissions were given. I spoke with Union Minister Mansukh Mandviya and got permission from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)," said Fadnavis, a former Maharashtra chief minister. He maintained that the intention was to donate it to the state government, which has reported an acute short of Remdesivir.

The other parties were not buying this. They accused BJP of hoarding the drug, which is in heavy demand all over the country. "Why is BJP desperate to save the Bruck Pharma director? Police is investigating. In Gujarat, the state BJP president distributed 50,000 doses of Remdesivir and distributed it at the party offices. Fadanvis wanted to do the same in Maharashtra by violating all norms," said NCP minister Nawab Malik.

**Why is BJP desperate to save the Bruck Pharma director? In Gujarat, the state BJP chief distributed 50,000 doses of Remdesivir and distributed it at the party offices** — Nawab Malik, NCP minister

### 'JANATA CURFEW NOT WORKING, STATE NEEDS COMPLETE LOCKDOWN TO CURB CASES'

As there is no sign of a break in Covid load despite Janata Curfew, Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders are now asking Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to impose a complete lockdown for breaking the surge of infection. Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope said that the Covid 19 positive cases are surging speedily despite Janta Curfew. "People are not following the Covid 19 protocol seriously. They are still going ours without any valid reason. We have to reduce the crowd in vegetable markets and other essential shops. If the Covid 19 positive did not come down, then we have no option but to impose the complete lockdown," Tope said. Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, who is also guardian minister of Nasik said, that in Nasik, per million the positive cases are high. "I got a phone call from several people including BJP MLAs demanding complete lockdown. This Janta Curfew is not working," he asserted.

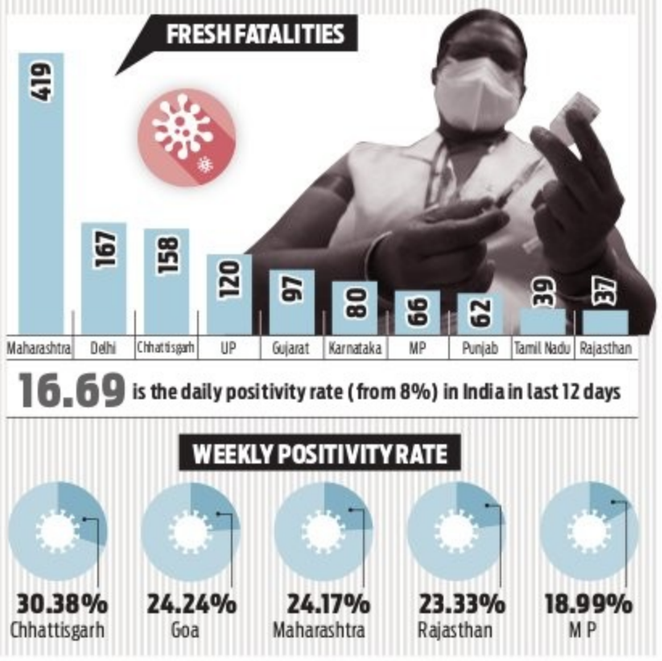
Mumbai Police chief Hemant Nagarale affixes stickers on emergency vehicles | PTI

## NATIONAL STATUS

**9 states/UTs** reported no death in last 24 hours: Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur, Lakshadweep, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh

**10 states** account for **82.94%** of the new deaths

**10 STATES REPORTED 78.56% OF NEW INFECTIONS**
Maharashtra, UP, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, MP, Kerala, Gujarat, TN and Rajasthan




**16.69** is the daily positivity rate (from 8%) in India in last 12 days




# Curfews should not hit jab drive: Centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

THE Centre has asked states and Union Territories to ensure that restrictions on movement imposed for COVID-19 control do not adversely impact the vaccination exercise.

In a letter, Additional Secretary in the Health Ministry Manohar Agnani said various measures are being undertaken to control the spread of coronavirus infection which includes curfews and partial/complete lockdown. Certain hospitals are being earmarked as dedicated Covid hospitals for management of the ongoing surge, he wrote.

"In this regard, it is advised that vaccination services should not be affected by COVID-19 curfews/lockdowns and the movement of beneficiaries to and fro COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) should not be restricted during such interventions. "Similarly, those CVCs which have been identified as dedicated COVID-19 hospitals should continue providing uninterrupted COVID-19 vaccination services.

"Vaccination services should be provided in a separate building/block in these hospitals that is directly separated from the building/block where management of COVID-19 patients is being done," he said to states and UTs.

The senior health official urged the states and UTs to direct officials for ensuring uninterrupted continuation of COVID-19 vaccination. "The Government will extend all possible support for COVID-19 vaccination..."

Vaccination drive has now completed three months wherein 12.26 crore doses have been administered, he added.

# Oxygen shortage: 6 die in MP, Bihar hospital chief drops letter bomb

**RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & ANURAAG SINGH** @Patna/ Bhopal

INADEQUATE supply of oxygen is causing havoc in several places. In Bhopal, six patients died at the Government Medical College Hospital in Shahdol, allegedly due to this reason. In Patna, the superintendent of Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH) asked to be relieved, saying that the situation is out of his control because of shortage of the life-saving gas.

While unconfirmed reports put the Shahdol tally at 10 deaths, the Medical College and district administration admitted that oxygen pressure was low and six people had died. But they added that low oxygen pressure cannot be blamed for the deaths, saying that they might have happened due to comorbidities among the highly-critical patients.

"Report has been sought from the Medical College. Once that is with us, can we say something about the happenings," said Shahdol divisional commissioner Rajiv Sharma.

Workers refill cylinders before sending them to a Jabalpur hospital | PTI

Hospital dean Dr Milind Shiralkar said experts have been called in to find out the exact cause behind the death of the six patients.

The kin of the deceased alleged that oxygen supply at the hospital was not enough. "My brother was 31 and recovering from Covid-19 till Saturday night. But at 4 am on Sunday, we were told he was dead. He died due to oxygen shortage," said Prem Kevlani Dhanpuri, a resident of Shahdol. Feroz Khan, relative of another person who died, said the same. On Saturday, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had said there is no shortage of oxygen in Madhya Pradesh.

In Patna, Vinod Kumar Singh's letter to the principal health secretary caused a stir. The NMCH superintendent wrote that the hospital was facing a huge shortage of oxygen. He also said that cylinders of NMCH's quota were sent to other hospitals. "As result of this, possibility of deaths of dozens of patients is very high. I suspect that action can be taken against me if that happens. I demand to be freed from the additional charge," he wrote.

The letter caused a flutter as opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav attacked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. There are 160 Covid-19 beds at NMCH and all are occupied. Late on Saturday, 250 cylinders of oxygen were given to NMCH. It was assured that 250 more would be given shortly.

## BREATHER

# Govt sanctions 162 plants for states and UTs

NEW DELHI: The Centre has sanctioned installation of 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants in public health facilities in all states, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

The PSA plants manufacture oxygen and help hospitals become self-sufficient in their requirement for medical oxygen, while also reducing the burden on the national grid for its supply of medical oxygen.

A total of 162 PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned by the government for installation in public health facilities in all states, the ministry tweeted. "These will augment medical oxygen capacity by 154.19 MT."

Thirty-three of the 162 PSA plants have been installed — five in Madhya Pradesh, four in Himachal Pradesh, three each in Chandigarh, Gujarat and Uttarakhand; two each in Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana; and one each in Andhra Pradesh among others, it said. *PTI*

A road near Jaipur's Hawa Mahal wears a deserted look on Sunday | PTI

**While no vaccine boards hang on the door of most hospitals, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan claims there is no shortage in supply of vaccines**
P Chidambaram, Congress leader

**Railways is leaving no stone unturned in the battle against COVID-19. We will be running oxygen express trains using green corridors to get oxygen in bulk and rapidly to patients**
Piyush Goyal, Union minister

**We unfortunately don't have a union govt. What we have is a PR company, with an electoral campaigner, callously and brazenly unleashing pain...**
Sitaram Yechury, CPI-M gen secy

**30,596**
**HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES ON A DAY IN UTTAR PRADESH**

# NSA for Remdesivir black-marketing

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @Bhopal

THE Madhya Pradesh government decided on Sunday to invoke the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against those found indulging in black marketing of Remdesivir.

"Any lab, hospital and associated individuals caught indulgent in Remdesivir injections black marketing will have to face action under the NSA," official sources informed.

The state has so far procured 1 lakh Remdesivir vials which are being supplied to government and private hospitals. An additional 12,000 vials were procured from a Hyderabad-based pharma company on Sunday. These injections were flown by helicopter and plane to various parts of the state.

Meanwhile, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said while private and government hospitals as well as COVID care centers have 40,784 COVID dedicated beds, the capacity will be increased to 50,000 beds by month end. Out of the 68,576 active patients, around 45,000 are being treated in home.

**It is very necessary to break the chain of the infection in view of the rise in the cases... No one should come out of house unnecessarily till April 30**
Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh CM

### Record toll in Nagpur

Nagpur on Sunday reported a record 85 Covid-19 deaths, while the day also saw 7,107 cases being added to the district's tally.

## COMMON ROOM

Covid care centre at New Delhi's Commonwealth Games village | PARVEEN NEGI

### CASES AGAINST 'MISSING' PATIENTS IN U'KHAND

Dehradun: Uttarakhand state police on Sunday registered cases against 20 Covid-19 patients who 'absconded' from a hospital in Muni Ki Reti area in Tehri district. Sanjay Gunjyal, Inspector General of Police, said: "Cases have been registered against 20 people who ran away for flouting norms and endangering the lives of others. Teams have been formed to look for them. We have also alerted Rajasthan government to where these people belonged." These people visited Kumbh Mela in Haridwar from different parts of the country and were admitted in hospitals after testing positive. Meanwhile, the state of Uttarakhand registered fresh 57 cases, its highest in a week (April 11-17). The total count in the state since pandemic began last year is 13,924. The number of deaths also increased to 104 after 27 last week.

# Another single-day record spike of 2,61,500 cases

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

INDIA recorded another record single-day surge of 2,61,500 Covid cases taking the overall caseload to 1,47,88,109.

There were also a record 1,501 new fatalities in the same period pushing the nationwide death toll to 1,77,150.

The 1,501 new fatalities include 419 from Maharashtra, 167 from Delhi, 158 from Chhattisgarh, 120 from Uttar Pradesh, 97 from Gujarat, 80 from Karnataka, 66 from Madhya Pradesh, 62 from Punjab and 39 from Tamil Nadu.

Family members mourn after the death of a Covid patient in Ahmedabad | PTI

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Active cases have surpassed the 18-lakh mark, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

Incidentally, the active cases was up for 39th day in a row. A total of 18,01,316 active cases comprise 12.18 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has dropped to 86.62 per cent, the Union Health ministry said in its statement.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,28,09,643, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.20 per cent, the data stated.

India's Covid tally had crossed 20 lakh on August 7,'30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and'50 lakh on September 16. It surged past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29,'90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

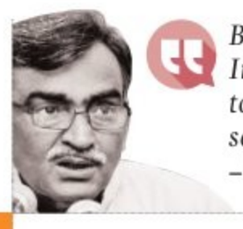
**FAKE HANDLE**

Investigation started after several fake Twitter accounts of Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik were detected, officials said on Sunday. A case was lodged after Raj Bhavan took up the matter with the DGP

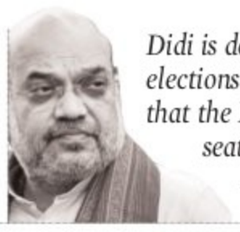
66 OFFICERS TRANSFERRED IN MAJOR J&K RESHUFFLE

| INDIA | Max | Min | INDIA | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 42 | 28 | Mumbai | 32 | 27 |
| Bhopal | 39 | 25 | Panaji | 32 | 25 |
| Jaipur | 37 | 23 | Patna | 39 | 23 |
| Amritsar | 32 | 17 | Lucknow | 39 | 25 |
| Chennai | 35 | 26 | Port Blair | 32 | 25 |
| Kolkata | 38 | 28 | Imphal | 31 | 13 |
| Srinagar | 21 | 05 | Chandigarh | 41 | 19 |

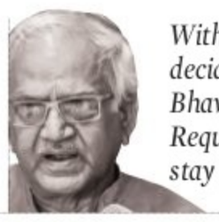
ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2021 DECIDE



*BJP is a threat to the idea of India as also to Bengal. It has to be stopped, and only Left and secular forces can do that*
— Surya Kanta Mishra, CPI(M)



*Didi is demoralised after five phases of elections as it has been established that the BJP, with more than 122 seats, is much ahead of her*
— Amit Shah, BJP



*With the rise of Covid cases, I have decided not to hold any big rally in Bhawanipur for upcoming election. Requesting everyone to wear mask & stay safe* — Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, TMC

# Mamata warns Central forces of post-poll effects

## 'High-handedness' will be met with legal action after TMC returns to power, says CM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @Kolkata

TRINAMOOL supremo Mamata Banerjee on Sunday warned the personnel of central forces deployed in West Bengal on poll duty that they would face legal consequences for their "high-handedness" at the behest of the BJP after the elections.

Claiming that the TMC would come to power for a third consecutive term in Bengal, she said BJP leaders would not be there after the elections and those central forces personnel who are accused of working for the saffron camp, would have to come here to comply with the legal formalities against them.

While addressing a rally at Gaighata in Bongaon, Mamata, who has been coming down heavily on the central forces since the election started, said, "Do not act and show your high-handedness at the behest of the BJP. After the election BJP leaders will not be beside you. After coming to power, we will pursue all incidents of your high-handedness. You will have to come here repeatedly to face legal consequences."

Referring to the firing at Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar in which four persons were gunned down, the chief minister said, "An FIR has been registered over this incident. We have identified the company of the central forces that opened fire. Legal formalities will be initiated after the election."

In a recent rally, Mamata showed a piece of paper and claimed she collected the names of the CISF personnel who had pulled trigger in Cooch Behar.

While Mamata never missed an opportunity to mention the Cooch Behar firing in her speeches, the BJP, too, is citing the same episode to hit out at her on the issue of instigating the electorate of a particular community. BJP's attack has become more intense after the party released an audio tape in which Mamata is purportedly heard telling TMC's Sitalkuchi candidate to keep the bodies of the victims as she would lead a rally with it.

Meanwhile, echoing what PM Modi said on Mamata's "plan" to take out rally with the bodies of firing victims, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused her of playing political cards over the issue. "The incident was a fall out her instigation. Now she is doing politics over the dead bodies of four," said Shah in a rally.

**82.49%**
Final polling percentage in fifth phase of Assembly elections in Bengal, which took place on Saturday

**3/8**
More phases of elections left in Bengal, which would be held on April 22, 26 and 29. Counting is on May2

### *Post-poll violence in Jalpaiguri dist*

Post-poll violence has allegedly taken place in Dabgram-Phulbari constituency in Jalpaiguri, with both the TMC and the BJP claiming that its members were attacked by the rival party cadres. As per an FIR lodged by BJP's Sikha Chatterjee, TMC "goons" thrashed two members of the saffron party. On the other hand, TMC's Goutam Deb alleged that BJP workers hurled stones on a party worker's house.

### *BJP member found dead*

The body of a BJP member was found at Chakdah in Nadia district in the early hours of Sunday. After the body of Dilip Kirtania (31) was found, BJP activists in the area started protest demonstrations alleging that he was murdered by miscreants belonging to the TMC. Kirtania's family members alleged that he had gone out in the night to attend to nature's call, but did not return home.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee takes out a roadshow in Kolkata on Sunday | BIBHASH LODH

# TMC takes up vax politics, intervention of PM sought to control surge in cases

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @Kolkata

IN an apparent attempt to sharpen attack on the BJP-led Centre in the wake of the rising Covid-19 cases in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to intervene immediately on three issues — Supplying vaccines to 2.7 crore people residing in densely populated state capital Kolkata, providing essential medicines to treat Covid-19 patients and steady supply of oxygen.

Amid the ongoing election process, Mamata's letter to Modi is said to be politically significant as she had promised before the election schedule was announced that her government would give free vaccines to all living in the state. Besides, her letter also held Bengal visit by "outsiders" for election purposes responsible for the steep rise in cases, an issue she has been raising while addressing rallies.

The two-page letter to the PM says, "You must recall that I had written to you on February 24, 2021 to allow the state to purchase vaccine doses directly using state funds. However, the state has not received the requisite clearance yet. In the mean time, number of cases in the state has also begun to increase, particularly in view of coming of large number of outsiders to the state for election campaign and other purposes at the behest of some political parties."

A TMC leader said Mamata is likely to use her letter to the PM to sharpen attack on the Centre. "This is why, she reminded the Centre about her communication on February 24 seeking nod for purchasing vaccines directly," he said.

Countering Mamata's allegation that BJP was responsible for the rising cases in the state, PM Modi said the CM had skipped two meetings chaired by him to discuss the scenario.

**MEGHALAYA**

# Conrad snubs ally BJP to form Garo hills council

**PRASANTA MAZUMDAR** @Guwahati

THE BJP is getting a taste of its own medicine as the National People's Party (NPP) cold-shouldered its saffron ally in staking claim for power in a tribal council in Meghalaya.

The Congress has emerged as the single-largest party in the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) by winning 12 of the 29 seats. With 11 seats, the NPP, which heads the state's ruling coalition where the BJP is a constituent, came a close second. The BJP bagged two seats while the regional Garo National Council (GNC) won one. Three seats went to Independent candidates.

Support of a minimum 15 Members of District Council (MDCs) is needed to rise to power in the GHADC. The BJP was dreaming big but the NPP went to the three Independents and the lone member from the GNC for support. With exactly 15 MDCs, the NPP has a razor-thin majority. CM Conrad K Sangma, meanwhile, said "every election is fought on its own terms".

One of the reasons why the BJP had to suffer the snub was that it had purportedly set its sights on the post of Chief Executive Member.

Treating allies differently in different elections has been a strategy of the BJP. The latest example was the December polls to the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam. The BJP had ditched the Bodoland People's Front while forming the new executive council despite the two being constituents of the state's coalition government.

# Will new collegium pave the way for first woman CJI?

**KANU SARDA** @New Delhi

ALL eyes will now be on a collegium headed by the designated Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana, when he takes over from the present CJI S A Bobde on April 24, as to whether he will end the gender disparity visible in the top court along with the high courts and trial courts across the country.

After CJI Bobde recently made remarks that women lawyers are turning down judgeship citing family responsibilities, many women lawyers associations have come forward and said they are willing to take the responsibility if offered. Under these circumstances, the decision made by the new collegium is crucial to fix the gender imbalance in the judiciary.

Since Independence, the country never had a woman CJI and only eight women judges have reached the Supreme Court. At present, Justice Indira Banerjee is the lone women judge in the top court.

Across 26 high courts, there are only 82 women judges out of 1,079 judges. Madras tops the list with 13, followed by Punjab and Haryana High Court that has 11 women judges. Delhi and Bombay High Courts have eight women judges each, while there is one each in Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Sikkim.

Sources said the collegium is already considering the names of a few women judges. Name of senior Judge B V Nagarathna from the Karnataka High Court is doing the rounds and if she is elevated now, she will be in line to become the first woman CJI in 2027.

Similarly, Telangana HC Justice Hima Kohli's name is also being discussed. If appointed now she would have a tenure till 2024 or else she will retire in September this year. Though there are no fixed rules for the appointment of a judge to the top court, seniority and regional representation are usually the major criteria.

# 'Standoff in Ladakh is for long haul, no de-escalation in sight'

A file photo of Indo-Chinese face-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh | EXPRESS

**It's a game of patience and going to be a long haul. While the Chinese will not escalate, they are not going to de-escalate as well. We also will not be escalating** — Lt Gen Vinod Bhatia (Retd)

**MAYANK SINGH** @New Delhi

THE deployment of the Indian and the Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh is unlikely to ease in the near future as there is no pressure on the Chinese to disengage, believe defence experts.

There are around 50,000 troops with arms and equipment, including the armoured vehicle, artillery guns and missiles, deployed along the LAC in a tense standoff which even saw deadly clashes.

Lt Gen DS Hooda (Retd) says, "I don't see an early resolution to the standoff because the kind of messaging from the Chinese side doesn't seem to indicate that they are in hurry." General Hooda commanded the Northern Command under which the 14 Corps looking after the Eastern Ladakh functions.

Going by the official statements, both sides have fallen back to usual statements since the disengagement of troops from both sides completed from the North and South Banks of Pangong Tso Lake.

The disengagement also included the heights of Kailash Ranges which were occupied by the Indian Army on June 27, 2020, thus acquiring advantageous positions opposite the Moldo Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Till now, 11 rounds of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China have taken place.

Maj Gen SB Asthana (Retd.), defence analyst, says, "Traditionally these months of the year is the campaigning season and, in this season, buildup normally takes place which is not going to fade away. No side will take a chance."

The other thing is that the terrain for the Chinese is conducive as the plateau is on their side. Lt Gen Vinod Bhatia (Retd.) said, "It's a game of patience and going to be a long haul. We have done well at tactical, operational, strategic level so far. We will also not be escalating but won't put our guards down."

**EXPRESS READ**

### Former Assam CM passes away at 89

Guwahati: Former Assam Chief Minister Bhumidhar Barman passed away at a Guwahati hospital on Sunday evening after a prolonged illness. The 89-year-old Congress veteran had served as the CM for a brief period from April 22-May 14, 1996 after the death of the then CM Hiteswar Saikia. An MBBS, he was first elected to the Assembly in 1967. Subsequently, he was elected six more times.

# Greener pastures, new parties lure PDP leaders

**FAYAZ WANI** @Srinagar

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which had emerged as a strong political force in Jammu and Kashmir after its launch in 1998, has been considerably weakened by defections.

While PDP chief and former CM Mehbooba Mufti was under detention after scrapping of Article 370, several leaders quit the PDP to join the Apni Party. The majority of leaders in the Apni Party, which was floated in March last year and is said to have tacit support of BJP, came from PDP including its founder Altaf Bukhari. The desertions started after the fall of PDP-BJP coalition government in June 2018.

The first to rebel was influential Shia leader and former minister Imran Ansari. He accused Mufti of turning the party into a family fiefdom.

Later, Mufti's close aide and former MLA Peerzada Mansoor, who was booked twice under PSA after his detention following Article 370 scrapping, senior leader Khurshid Alam , founding member and former MP Muzaffar Baig and his wife Safina Baig quit the party to join Peoples Conference.

Out of the 28 MLAs elected on PDP ticket to J&K Assembly in 2014, 18 have quit the party since the fall of PDP-BJP government. PDP leaders blame the Centre and J&K government for weakening the party in view of its stand on Article 370 revocation.

Senior PDP leader Firdous Ahmed Tak said, "Some got unnerved by seeing greener pastures on the other side. But in the majority of cases, PDP leaders are being targeted."

### Bureaucrat puts up bottle art exhibition in Jaipur

The Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur's cultural hub, held a unique two-in-one art exhibition — Bottle is Canvas and Freehand Meditative Mandalas — in the last week. The exhibition portrayed a wide range of bottle art depicting the Covid pandemic in its latest avatar to the divine series encompassing Buddha, Ganesha as well as the hues of Turkish Church, Sufis and many others — all painted on bottles of different shapes and sizes collected from a scrap dealer in exchange of newspapers. The art works were created by Mugdha Sinha, a senior civil servant in Rajasthan, who aims to bring out the artist within her.

**JAIPUR DIARY**

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

### Skill courses a must to get unemployment allowance

The Gehlot government has made major changes in the rules for unemployment allowance to graduates in Rajasthan. More people will now get this allowance but undergoing skill training will be essential before the educated unemployed in the state get the allowance. Under the new rules, registered graduates will have to do a skill course at the Skill Development Centre under the RSLDC in Jaipur. Even after that, if the youngsters do not get employed, only then will they get unemployment allowance. While earlier only 1.6 lakh unemployed graduates were to get the allowance, the government has increased the number of beneficiaries to 2 lakh. In addition, the amount of monthly unemployment allowance of ₹3,500 to girls and ₹3,000 to boys has been raised to ₹4,500 and ₹4,000 respectively.

### City girl among top 20 at Miss Eco International

Jaipur girl Harshita Bhambhani gave India its first 'placement' in beauty pageants this year. India's Miss ECO Harshita was placed in the top 20 in the Miss Eco International 2021, an initiative by the United Nations, held in Egypt. The nation can take special pride in Harshita as she was the youngest contestant who made her place in top-20 list. A placement is an honour given to contestants who finish among top-20 in a beauty pageant. A delighted Harshita says, "It's an honour to represent India which has been a life-changing experience for me."

### App for registration of birth, marriage and death

The registration of births, marriages and deaths in Rajasthan will soon be conducted through a mobile app. The chief secretary recently launched the mobile app created by the Directorate of Economic and Statistics and Planning Department. After its launch, home delivery of birth, death and marriage certificates will become a reality. Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya said, "The aim of the state government is that all welfare schemes being run for the common people should be integrated on this portal. The Jan Aadhaar card will soon be used for providing certificates of original residence, caste, birth, death and even marriage."

**Teenager**
arrested in US state of Nebraska on murder warrant after shooting kills one

**GLOBAL WEATHER**
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing | 28 | 13 | SNY | Los Angeles | 29 | 13 | SNY |
| Colombo | 32 | 23 | TDS | Melbourne | 24 | 16 | TDS |
| Dhaka | 28 | 16 | SNY | Moscow | 12 | 3 | LC |
| Dubai | 26 | 17 | SNY | New York | 18 | 9 | SNY |
| Houston | 23 | 14 | SNY | Singapore | 31 | 26 | TDS |
| Istanbul | 16 | 7 | LC | Toronto | 13 | 4 | SNY |
| London | 17 | 4 | LC | Washington | 20 | 18 | LC |

# US, China agree to cooperate on climate crisis with urgency

Talks between American special envoy for climate John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua focussed on accelerating global transition to clean energy

**SEOUL**

THE United States and China are "committed to cooperating" on the pressing issue of climate change, the two sides said on Saturday, issuing the pledge days ahead of a key summit hosted by President Joe Biden.

The joint statement came after a trip to Shanghai by US climate envoy John Kerry, the first official from Biden's administration to visit China, signaling hopes the two sides could work together on the global challenge despite sky-high tensions on multiple other fronts. But to achieve the global climate goal, Kerry said words must be put into action and urged China to reduce its use of coal.

"The United States and China are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands," said the statement from Kerry and China's special envoy for climate change Xie Zhenhua.

John Kerry

> **(The two countries) are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands**
>
> US-China joint statement

It listed multiple avenues of climate cooperation between the world's top two economies which together account for nearly half of the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change.

It stressed "enhancing their respective actions and cooperating in multilateral processes, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement."

Both countries also "look forward" to a virtual climate summit of world leaders that Biden will host next week, though the statement did not say if Chinese President Xi Jinping would attend.

"We very much hope he will take part," Kerry, who is now in South Korea, told reporters on Sunday. "Of course, every country will make its own decisions," he said, adding: "We're not seeking to force anybody. We're seeking cooperation."

China currently has about half of the world's coal power, Kerry said, adding that he "talked a lot" about it with officials in Shanghai.

"I am not pointing fingers," said Kerry. "We've had too much coal, other countries have too much coal, but China is the biggest, biggest coal user in the world," he added. "And because it's such a big and powerful economy and country, it needs to move."

Biden has made climate a top priority, turning the page from his predecessor Donald Trump, who was closely aligned with the fossil fuel industry. *AFP*

# COPS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY PROTESTERS IN PAKISTAN

Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan, a banned Islamist party, help their colleague who was injured during a clash with police in Lahore on Sunday | AFP

**ISLAMABAD**

AT least seven Pakistan police officers and special rangers were taken hostage on Sunday by supporters of a radical Islamist party, officials said.

Anti-France rioting has rocked the country since Monday, when the leader of the now-banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was detained in Lahore after calling for the expulsion of the French ambassador. The protests have paralysed cities and led to the deaths of six policemen, prompting the French embassy to recommend all its nationals temporarily leave the country.

"The TLP members are holding five police officers and two rangers hostage," said Rana Arif, a police spokesman in Lahore told AFP, referring to the country's paramilitary force.

Firdous Ashiq Awan, a spokeswoman for the Punjab provincial government, said 12 policemen had been abducted and taken to a TLP mosque in Lahore, where hundreds of supporters were gathered.

"Violent groups armed with petrol bombs and acid bottles stormed the Nawankot police station this morning," she tweeted, adding that six police officers have now died in clashes this week.

TLP leaders say several of the party's supporters were killed in Sunday's clashes.

"We won't bury them until the French ambassador is kicked out," Allama Muhammad Shafiq Amini, a TLP leader in the city, said in a video statement. The police would not comment on the reported TLP deaths. An oil truck was seized and petrol bombs thrown at officers, both Arif and Awan said. An AFP reporter at the scene said police used tear gas against stone-throwing protesters. The TLP has been behind an anti-France campaign for months since President Emmanuel Macron defended the right of Charlie Hebdo magazine to republish cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad—an act deemed blasphemous by many Muslims.

Pakistan's Interior Minister said party supporters had blocked 191 sites over the past week, with the mosque in Lahore now a gathering point. *AFP*

## B'desh arrests leader of hardline Islamist group

**DHAKA**

AN influential hardline cleric of an Islamist group was on Sunday arrested in Bangladesh on charges of instigating deadly violence in the Muslim-majority country.

A joint team of police and detectives raided an Islamic seminary in Mohammadpur area of the capital Dhaka on Sunday and arrested Hefazat-e-Islam Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque, who has been in the limelight due to some recent controversies, officials said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner (Detective Branch) Mahbub Alam said that 47-year-old Haque was arrested around 12.30 pm.

Teachers and students of the seminary initially staged protest and tried to obstruct the raid. However, Haque was detained from a room on the first floor of the building, officials said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Deputy Commissioner Harun-ur-Rashid said that Haque and other Hefazat leaders had been accused in several cases, including attacks on law enforcers and police stations and vandalism. These cases are being investigated. The Hefazat leader has been sued in several cases filed over violence in Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka and following his confinement with a woman at the Sonargaon resort.

DB officials said Haque is also an accused in a number of cases. Earlier, the Hefazat leader made the headlines by his controversial remarks regarding sculptures. He is also accused of threatening the government in the past.

In November last year, he demanded an immediate halt to the installation of a sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the capital's Dholaipar. *PTI*

# US shooting: Hate crime probe sought

**WASHINGTON**

INFLUENTIAL US lawmakers and Sikh community leaders have sought a thorough probe into the mass shooting at a FedEx facility in Indiana as a potential hate crime that killed eight, including four members of the Sikh community.

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has called for investigation of potential anti-Sikh motivations in the incident that took place late on Thursday night.

"While the Indianapolis and Sikh communities continue to mourn, and as the rest of our country mourns with them, investigators must also determine if this mass shooting was a hate-motivated attack in addition to serving as another example of the plague of gun violence which has beset our nation," Krishnamoorthi said.The four Sikh community members who lost their lives are Amarjeet Kaur Johal (66); Jasvinder Kaur (64); Amarjit Sekhon (48); and Jaswinder Singh (68). Three of the deceased are women. The violence began at 11 pm local time on Thursday during shift change at the FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis—a time when the area was heavily trafficked with many employees arriving for or leaving after their shift.

Sikh community members prepare meals in the kitchen of the Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis. Four Sikhs were killed in Friday's shooting at FedEx | AFP

The incident comes as the country has witnessed a recent wave of anti-Asian hate crimes during this pandemic after a broader increase in hate-motivated crimes and violence against a range of American communities over the last half decade, Krishnamoorthi said. "We do not yet know the motive of the shooter, and we may never know for sure what drove him to do what he did. We do know, however, that the FedEx facility he targeted was known for having a large workforce," said a statement issued by eight Gurdwaras. *PTI*

**EXPRESS READ**

### Train accident near Egypt's Cairo injures 97

Cairo: A train accident north of Cairo on Sunday left 97 people injured, Egypt's health ministry said. No deaths were reported.The ministry said "97 citizens were injured in a train accident in Toukh", a small farming town in the fertile Nile Delta about 40 kilometres outside the capital

### US warns of action if Putin critic dies in jail

Washington: The United States on Sunday warned Russia of "consequences" if the hunger-striking Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny dies in prison. "We have communicated that there will be consequences if Mr Navalny dies," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told CNN on Sunday


**IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU**

**P & SC No. 187/2021 (CCH-23)**

**BETWEEN: Mrs. Nishi Shisodia**, aged about 41 years, W/o Late Sandeep Shisodia, R/a, Viva-704, SJR Verity, Hosa Road, Bangalore 560035.
Presently residing at C 207, SJR Redwoods Apartment, Haralur Road, Ambalipura, Bangalore-560102.

**2. Miss. Aarushi Shisodia,** aged about 17 years (minor) D/o. Late Sandeep Shisodia, Represented by Natural Guardian, Mother- Mrs. Nishi Shisodia (Petitioner No.1) R/a C 207, SJR Redwoods Apartment, Haralur Road, Ambalipura, Bangalore-560102.

**3. Master. Aarav Shisodia**, aged about 13 years (minor) S/o. Late Sandeep Shisodia Represented by Natural Guardian, Mother- Nishi Shisodia (Petitioner No.1) R/a C 207, SJR Redwoods Apartment, Haralur Road, Ambalipura, Bangalore-560102.

**4. Mr. Ranjit Singh Shisodia**, aged about 73 years S/o Late K.S Shisodia, R/a Vera-605 SJR Verity, Amrutha College Road, Opposite Sarjapura Road, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore- 560035.

**5. Mrs. Shashi K Shisodia,** W/o Ranjit S Shisodia, aged about 70 years, R/a Vera-605 SJR Verity, Amrutha College Road, Opposite Sarjapura Road, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore 560035.

...PETITIONERS

**AND: Nil** ...RESPONDENTS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the above-named petitioners have made to this Court a petition under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, seeking grant of succession certificate for the assets belonging to the deceased Sandeep Shisodia who died on 05.02.2021 owned by him during his lifetime. Petitioner No.1 Wife, No. 2 & 3 Children & No. 4 & 5 Parents of Sandeep Shisodia.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear before the XXV Addl City Civil & Sessions Judge Bengaluru (CCH-23) in person or by pleader duly instructed **on the 27th May 2021 at 11:00 AM,** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing which the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.

**SCHEDULE OF ASSETS BELONGING TO LATE SANDEEP SHISODIA FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE**

**A. AEGON** Religare Life Insurance policy held with AEGOX Religare Lift Insurance company bearing policy no. 510021116716 commenced on 31.03.2010 to the date of maturity being 30.03.2020 for a sum assured 40 lakhs.

B. Employees Provident Fund held with Invento Labs Pvt Ltd., bearing establishment ID No. APHYD15930920000 and bearing member no. APHYD15309200000010051 in the name of the deceased Sandeep Shisodia and also bearing UAN No. 101408836242.

C. Savings Bank Account of the deceased Sandeep Shisodia at ICICI Bank bearing Account No. 057701500807 bearing MICR code 560229061 and IFSC code ICIC0001949.

D. ICICI Lombard Health Insurance Policy, dated 16.10.2019, bearing Policy No. 4128/IH/83850275/04/000 and Card No. 101212813 issued in the name of the deceased Late Sandeep Shisodia.

E. ICICI PruLifeTime Insurance Policy, issued on 13.06.2006 bearing Policy No. 02934525 in the name of the deceased Sandeep Shisodia.

F. Employees Provident Fund held with Hitachi Data Systems India Pvt Ltd bearing establishment No. MHBAN0049597000 and bearing member No. MHBAN00495970000010374 and also bearing UAN No. 101408836242, in the name of the deceased Sandeep Shisodia.

G. Employees Provident Fund held with Hitachi Vantara India Pvt Ltd bearing establishment No. MHBAN1717731000 and bearing member No. MHBAN17177310000010228 and also bearing UAN No. 101408836242.

H. The Company TechPartners ME Technology Consulting Services is registered in the name of Late Sandeep Shisodia at Dubai with Dubai Economics Department, bearing License No. 660626.

I. Maruti SX4 VX1 B34, Saloon Car (P White in colour) bearing Reg No. KA20 Z 5752 registered dated 15/10/2013 owned by Late Sandeep Shisodia.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day April 2021.

**By Order of Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.**
**Advocate for Petitioners and Executors, Bangalore.**
**VIVEK .M.S,** Advocate
No.424, 5th Cross, 10th E Main, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011.



**IN THE COURT OF THE XXII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU**

**C.Misc. No. 4109/2020**

**BETWEEN: 1. Amreen Sultana,** D/o Late. Mohammed Jan, Aged about 37 years, **2. Mohammed Sajjad Pasha,** S/o Late. Mohammed Jan, Aged about 40 years, Petitioner Nos. 1 & 2 are R/at No. 139, 6th Cross, Pillanna Garden, Thomas Town, Bengaluru- 560 084. ...Petitioners

**AND: The Commissioner,** Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru. ...Respondent

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioners named above have filed the above petition seeking direction to the Commissioner, Birth and Death, Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, to registered the death of deceased who is the father of Petitioners who was by name Mohammed Jan, S/o Late. Abdul Azeez, died 13.09.2011 at No.139, 6th Cross, Pillanna Garden, Thomas Town, Bengaluru - 560 084, and issue the direction accordingly for the death certificate.

Any person interested and having any objection in this matter, may paper before the above court **at 11:00 a.m. on 30.04.2021** to which date the case is posted for hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 30.03.2021.

**By order of the Court, Shirasteder, XXII ACMM Court**
**K.S. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY,** Advocate
No. 18, LDS Arcade, (Kamal Silk Building), Office at No.1, 4th Floor, 11th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-02.



**IN THE COURT OF THE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU**

**C.MISC. No. 186 /2021**

1) ANJINANAMMA And Others

PETITIONERS

AND:

1)The Tahsildhar THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS Yalahanka Taluk Bengaluru And Others

RESPONDENTS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, the Petitioner named above has filed the above petition seeking direction to The Tahsildhar THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS Yalahanka Taluk Bengaluru to register the date of death of the deceased who is the Father-in law of 1st Petitioner, Grand father of 2nd and 3rd petitioner and Father -in law of 2nd Respondent and Grand father of respondent No. 3 and 4 and father of 5th Respondent by name Late Mr. MUNISHAMI S/o. Late Doddamuniyappa who was died on 26-12-1986 at no.140, Vyasamaharshi Circle, Dasenahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560 088 and issue the direction accordingly for the death certificate. It is required to produce the same before the concerned authorities for documentation, for transfer of Katha and for other legal purposes and service benefits. Any person interested and having any objection in this matter, may appear before the above court at 11:00 a.m on 20.05.2021 to which date the case is posted for hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 15 Day of 04.2021

**By the order of the Court**
**Sheristedar**
**Court of the CJM at Bengaluru**

**Advocate for Petitioner**
**Sri KESHAVA. H, Advocate,**
No.153, BRI Colony, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 079



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The public in General is hereby informed that **Mr. N. JAYARAJU, S/o Sri K.R. Nanjappa Reddy,** Aged about 60 years, Residing at No.260, 19th Cross, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagara Post, Bangalore-560093. is negotiating to sell the schedule property and claims that he is the absolute owner in possession of the property mentioned below to my clients **Mr. SUDHAKARA REDDY .P.C. S/o. Chinna Chowdappa,** Aged about 45 years, Residing at No. 006, V4 Bliss, 12th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Old Madras Road, Battarahalli, Bangalore-560049, and Mr.RAVIBABU .V. S/o Venkataramaiah, aged about 42 years, Residing at No.19/63-201, "Ravi Babu Building", 1st Cross, Behind Mariyamma Temple, Chinnappanahalli, Bengaluru-560037. In respect of the converted land property bearing Sy.No. 72/2 measuring 0 Acre 24.05 Guntas or (26,195 Sq.ft) Acre 29.12 Guntas, RDPR property PID No. 15020040010082006 6, Khatha No.1522/72/2 Duly converted from Agricultural to Non Agricultural residential purpose vide Order No. A.L.N (EBB) SR: 18/2013-14 dated 16.08.2013 passed by The Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru, Situated at Hirandahalli Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. **AND BOUNDED on East By:** Hirandahalli Main Road, **West By:** Kaluve, **North By:** Hirandahalli Main Road and **South by:** Land in Survey No.69.

Any person having any rights, title, interest are claim in the said property by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift or otherwise howsoever in respect of the same, shall intimate the objection in writing to the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within 7 days from the date of publications of this notice or else any such claims by any one shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and / or abandoned. And my clients shall proceed conclude the negotiations and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

**SRINIVASA REDDY K.V.,** Advocate
No. 451, 15th Cross, Near Deepthi Nursing Home, Lakkasandra, Bengaluru - 560 030.
Mobile: 9448013880, 9880580267
Bengaluru Date:19.04.2021



**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

**Budigere Branch,** Via-Sulibele, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore-562129,
E-mail :dbbudi@bankofbaroda.com , Ph:080-27643224 SOL:-9190

**SHIFTING NOTICE OF BRANCH & OFF SITE ATM PREMISES**

By virtue of this notice, all customers of **e-Dena Bank , Budigere Branch** are hereby informed that the Present Branch Premises and Off Site ATM Premises will be relocated to New Premises shortly:

***: No.123/1A, V R Plaza, B H EXTENSION***
***Bangalore Main road, Near Siddaganga High School***
***Budigere Village, Devanahalli Taluk.***
***Bangalore Rural Dist—562165, Karnataka***

Place: Budigere
Date:17-04-2021

Sd/-
Branch Manager
Bank of Baroda, Budigere



**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) ( Formerly known as India India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

| Name of the Borrower(s), /Guarantor (s) | Demand Notice Date & Amount | Description of secured asset (immovable property) |
|---|---|---|
| Mrs. Reena Negi, Mr. Jitender Singh Aswal, **(Prospect No. 703710)** | **12-April-2021 Rs. 16,52,370/-** (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Only ) | All that piece and parcel of the property being : Flat No. B2E0109, admeasuring 525 sq. ft. , Sy No 22 23/1 & 24 Kammasandra Village, Bidarahalli, Bangalor |

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers.
For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office : IIFL HFL "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.
**Place: Bangalore Date: 19.04.2021** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd**



**Bank of Baroda**

**Palace Orchards Branch | No 344/8, 4th Main, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080, Phone: 080-23619313/7185 || E-Mail: vjpaor@bankofbaroda.com**

**NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR**
**(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)**

**To, BORROWER: Mr. Ravi MS** #60, "PREM NILAYA", 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Srinivasa Nagar 1st Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560050. **Mr. Ravi MS,** No.2, Jayamma Complex, N R Vidyapeetha Circle, Kathriguppe Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560050
**GUARANTOR: Ms Padma Priya K** #60, "PREM NILAYA", 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Srinivasa Nagar 1st Phase, BSK 3rd Stage Bengaluru - 560050

**Dear Sir/s,**

**Re: Credit facilities with our Palace Orchards Branch**

1. We refer to letter no.1286/AGM/18248/202/2018 dated 16st Nov'2018 conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction, you have availed and started utilizing the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

| Nature and type of facility: | Limit (Rs.) In lakhs | Rate of Interest | O/s as on 31-03-2021 (inclusive of interest up to 30-03-2021 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mortgage Loan | 90.00 | 9.60% | Rs 90,00,531.85 |

**Security agreement with brief description of securities (please mention the details of security agreements and details of mortgaged property including total area and boundaries):** All that piece and parcel of the re-allotment of property bearing no 60, situated at Srinivasanagar, Banashankari 1st stage Bangalore now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Old ward no 54, New ward no 164 measuring east to west: 9.15 meters and North to South: (15.30+15.10)/2 meters And bounded on the :- East by: Property bearing no 61, West by: Property bearing no 59, North by: Road, South by: Property bearing no 65. Together with 14 square RCC roofing house constructed with brick and cement wall, mosaic flooring, doors and windows are made out of jungle wood with all civic amenities thereon.

2. The outstanding stated above include further drawings and interest up to 30-03-2021. Other charges debited to the account are Rs. Nil. 3. As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of interest on above loans/outstanding for the month ended Nov'2020. You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on 01-12-2020 and thereafter. 4. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on 31st March'2021 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon. 5. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating Rs 90,00,531.85 as stated in para 1 above, within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note. 6. Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full. 7. We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business),without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13 (13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act. 8. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered to you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/ inviting quotations/ tender/ private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

**Date: 07-04-2021 Place : Bangalore** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**



**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

**Zonal Stressed Asset Recovery Branch Cuttack,**
Plot No- CM- 2B, 1st Floor, Sector-7, Near Markat Nagar Police Station, CDA, Cuttack- 753014, Odisha, India.
Tel - 0671 2361377, Mob:7077727133, e-mail Id: armcut@bankofbaroda.co.in

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

| Sl. No. | Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagrs | Description of the Property | Total Dues | Date & Time of e-Auction | Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount | Status of Possession | Property Inspection date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **M/s Credence Infra Projects Pvt Ltd.** C/o- Shagun Projects Pvt Ltd,151, Mrinal Colony, Near MMTC Weigh Bridge, Barbil- Keonjhar- 758 035. **Director/Guarantor :1.Sh Pitambar Lal Agarwal,** 60, Jawahar Nagar Extn.,Varanasi, U.P.- 221 010 **2. Sh Kaushal Kumar Saraf** S/o Sh Hari Saraf CK- 23/28, Jawahar Nagar Varanasi, U.P.- 221 010 **3.Sh Ram Satish Kumar Kurup,**110 A, Stag Adithya 1st ,Main Ashwani Lay out, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560 047 **4.Sh Anil Singh,**G- 15, Hindalco Colony, Renukut, Sonebhadra, U.P.- 231 217 **Guarantor: Smt Kantadevi Agarwal** W/o Sh Pitambar Lal Agarwal, 60, Jawahar Nagar Extn., Varanasi, U.P.- 221 010 | All that part and parcel of property consisting of Vacant Land situated at Mouza:- Giridih Dist. Giridih, Jharkhand, Khata No- 30, Plot No- 144, Touzi No- 15/ 11, PS .Giridih Town, measuring an area of 5 kathas standing in the name of Mrs Kantadevi Agarwal | **Rs. 1,89,61,765.48** + interest and charges w.e.f. **09.10.2013** as per Demand Notice **Dt. 09.10.2013** less recovery if any | **12-05-2021** from **02.00 pm** to **06.00 pm** | **Rs 54,20,000/-** **Rs. 5,42,000/-** **Rs. 10,000/-** | (Construc-tive) Symbolic | 05th & 06th May 2021 |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. 0671 2361377, Mobile: 7077727133.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(5), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002

**Date: 15.04.2021**
**Place:Cuttack**

**Sd/- Authorised officer**
**Bank of Baroda**



**QuoteExpress**

**THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING**

WALT DISNEY

**₹4,615 cr** was pulled out of the Indian financial markets by foreign portfolio investers in April so far mid sharp rise in Covid-19 cases

# THE FUTURE OF INVESTING IS IN INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

The key is to identify sectors that remain potential winners for future

RAJAS KELKAR

A lot is happening worldwide due to a global pandemic that is most likely to recede slowly. Financial markets are expected to remain volatile amidst the second and third waves witnessed in various countries. If you are an investor looking to ride through the turmoil and stay invested, you need to look at businesses that could last over the next two decades.

Companies that ride through the wave of the new type of consumer demand could grow their business. As a minority shareholder in those companies or a mutual fund investor, you should benefit from any appreciation in their share price over the next decade.

In 2011, share prices of Bajaj Finance, a leading non-banking finance company that sells consumer loans, were hovering around ₹70. Today, the share price is ₹4,500. Eicher Motors that makes Royal Enfield motorbikes, has witnessed a similar surge in the share price. Investors who believed in these businesses to do better and stayed invested earned money. The Nifty index has gained two and a half times during the past ten years.

The key is to identify sectors that would emerge winners due to consumer behaviour in the years ahead. You will have to use our observations of things that are working around you. You have to connect the dots and form a view. Investing is a lot about logical reasoning. However, it is also about your ability to stomach any future losses. When we talk of investing, it means buying and holding on to companies that remain potential winners for the future.

**Here are five areas to watch out for:**

1. E-commerce-It is a no-brainer. There was already a significant potential for companies selling online products or services. The pandemic has tested models of companies that can withstand a stressful situation. You have to look for businesses that adapt to the shift witnessed in consumer behaviour. A lot of things are getting bought and sold online. You have to look for companies that are in the e-commerce space and stay invested in them.
2. Atmanirbhar Bharat-Companies that manufacture in India over the next ten years could do well. The government has provided production-linked incentives to them. So watch out for businesses in the consumer electronic space.
3. Electric vehicles-The demand for electric cars in India is all set to explode. Tesla, the leading manufacturer of electric vehicles, would soon start selling in India. Existing auto companies may adapt. You have to find the ones who adapt swiftly. A lot of auto-component companies may have to adapt to electronic spares from mechanical ones. That change would also drive the demand.
4. Entertainment-The over-the-top or OTT streaming demand is reflected in the success of Netflix and Amazon Prime in India. Hotstar, owned by Disney and many other streaming services of listed Indian companies like Zee Telefilms, Balaji Telefilms, and Shemaroo Entertainment, compete for the audience's attention.
5. Financial services-The digital impact on everything related to your savings, investments and insurance was visible during the pandemic. As digital banking and investing catches up, the financial services sector in India will continue to grow. That is over and above the rapid growth witnessed over the past ten years. There are a lot of new companies listing on stock exchanges.

You may want to get help in identifying the right stocks in these sectors from research analysts or financial analysts who sell investing advice to investors. If you are working with a full-service stock brokerage, they provide research assistance through regular reports.

*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

AMIT BANDRE

MONEY-WISE

# MAKING MARKET SENSE OF THE DIVERGENCE

A question that has been bothering many market participants for a while now is the mismatch between the growth in the economy, corporate profit growth and the indices. While there are other factors too that influence the trajectory that indices often follow, any significant divergence between growth in the economy and corporate profit growth merits attention.

While there is no doubt that the year-on-year (yoy) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth numbers for the current FY i.e 21-22, may appear impressive given the near vertical fall in FY 20-21, it is also important to take cognizance of the fact that if compared to FY 19-20. Now, that year itself was one where the economy appeared shaky and if one looks at the projected numbers for financial year 2021-22, the forecasted growth rate is marginal. The ongoing second Covid wave may wipe that gain off too. Interestingly though, the growth in corporate profits on the top index (Nifty-50) stocks could be significantly higher if FY 22 is compared with FY 20. Part of this may be due to the projected numbers of a few high weightage companies, but this mismatch between the potential growth in the economy and corporate profits is in many ways unique. At this moment, the indices clearly and quite understandably too are being driven by the latter, rather than the former though there has to come a time when this kind of glaring divergence between the two narrows.

So, does this mean one can simply buy into large cap stocks or mutual fund schemes and laugh one's way to the bank. Alas, investing is an Art and not a Science and hence such linear assumptions rarely work. Furthermore, in the large cap space, passive investing has already emerged as a viable option, but then mutual fund houses offer categories like large and mid cap as well as Flexi-Cap that lend themselves to better dexterity when market storms strike, like it did in March,2020.

Furthermore, one cannot rule out good performances by mid and small sized businesses. After all, most of today's large cap stocks comprise companies that climbed up the small and mid-cap ladder. Further, there is a periodic review of the companies comprising an index and those whose performances are not upto the mark invariably get replaced by those that consistently top in the mid-cap space.

Further, there could be market cap agnostic sectoral plays. The sector at the forefront right now, yet again, like it had been around the same time last year is the pharmaceutical sector.

This is owing to the emergence of a far more virulent second Covid wave that is spreading like a bushfire across India. The prevalence of a wide variety of companies and business models, not to speak of products makes the Pharmaceutical sector a potent albeit not so easy sector to navigate for retail investors.

Clearly then, not only does a divergence exist but also, market complexities are rising and hence, so will volatility. Investors would do well to do their due diligence before plunging into these turbulent market waters.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**ASHOK KUMAR**
*Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com*

# What Citibank India exit means for its banking, credit card customers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

US-based banking major Citigroup has decided to exit its consumer banking business in the Indian market—along with that of 12 other countries. Interestingly, it was done when the group recorded its highest-ever quarterly profits. However, with this announcement, a big question arises about its possible impact on the bank's existing customers and employees.

"While the 13 markets have excellent businesses, we don't have the scale we need to compete. We believe our capital, investment dollars, and other resources are better deployed against higher returning opportunities in wealth management and our institutional businesses in Asia," Citigroup's global CEO Jane Fraser had said. In India, Citibank currently has 35 branches with

19,235 employees and a business with a balance sheet of ₹2.18 lakh crore. It has loans and deposits worth ₹66,507 crore and ₹1.57 lakh crore, respectively. The bank has around 3 million retail customers.

While analysts are still analysing the rationale behind the move, it has left many consumers who were having salary accounts, or holding credit cards to wonder, what will happen to them. Ashu Khullar, CEO, Citi India said there is no immediate change to the operations and no immediate impact to our colleagues as a result of this announcement.

"In the interim, we will continue to serve our clients with the same care, empathy, and dedication that we do today," he said. While there was no further clarity on what will happen to the customers, the officials have brushed aside any concern regarding savings.

A senior executive of the bank said, those who are having salary accounts need not be worried. "There is no need to panic. Their money is safe and if there will be any change, customers will be informed much in advance to avoid any complexities. But so far, there is no need for that," the executive assured. Citigroup, however, will continue to run its institutional business in India.

**TODAY'S STOCK PICK**

**GLAND PHARMA**

Current Price ₹2,645

Target Price ₹2,900

Gland Pharma is a comprehensively injectable-focused company, with a wide generics portfolio comprising of a) own/contract development, b) technology transfer, c) an established manufacturing value chain across the range of delivery systems, and d) extensive regulatory capabilities. GLAND stands out in the pharma universe and we expect a 25% earnings CAGR over FY20–23. Initiate BUY.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

**Disclaimer:** The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

# PFRDA proposes slew of changes to pension system

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@Chennai

THE soon-to-be-voted-on PFRDA Amendment Bill looks to make several changes to the existing pension system in the country, from reducing conflict of interest between regulating and managing entities to allowing older citizens to participate in the rapidly growing National Pension Scheme (NPS).

Originally introduced in the Budget session of Parliament this year, the Bill is likely to be voted on and passed during the upcoming monsoon session. While some of the changes are more technical in nature, others will bring in more visible changes on the subscriber-level. Here's a look at some of these proposed changes:

**Demarcation of roles**

Currently, there is no clearly written code laying out the responsibilities for regulator's under whose purview pension scheme products fall under.

**Higher maximum entry and exit age**

According to PFRDA chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay, the Bill will likely allow the regulator to increase the maximum entry and exit age for the NPS scheme, allowing subscribers who join after 60 years of age to continue their NPS accounts till they are 75.

The amendments seek to change this system and lay down clear areas of responsibility. According to a briefing by the Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will monitor retirement products and annuities sold by insurance companies, the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) will regulate all retirement products sold by mutual funds, and the PFRDA will regulate all guaranteed pension products such as the NPS and Atal Pension Yojana.

**Separation of NPS Trust**

The NPS Trust, which has an appointed Board of Trustees, was set up by the government to manage all the funds collected under the NPS scheme — with the responsibility for this corpus lying with the NPS Trust and the trustee bank. However, the NPS Trust remains part of the PFRDA.

In order to reduce any conflict of interest in the regulatory ecosystem, the Bill seeks to formally separate the NPS Trust and make it independent of the PFRDA. A Pension Trust for employees of private sector companies will also be established in line with the announcements made in this year's Union Budget.

# Irdai imposes ₹51 lakh penalty on four insurers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

INSURANCE regulator Irdai has imposed a penalty of ₹51 lakh on four insurers, including SBI General Insurance, for violation of norms related to motor insurance.

A penalty of ₹25 lakh has been imposed on SBI General Insurance Company for not fulfilling regulatory obligations under the Motor Third Party (MTP) business.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has also imposed a penalty of ₹13 lakh on Liberty General Insurance Limited, ₹10 lakh penalty on Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, and ₹3 lakh on Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company. In the order on SBI General Insurance Company, Irdai said the charge was that the the insurer did not comply with the MTP Obligation for the financial year 2017-18 calculated as per Regulation 3 of the Irdai (Obligation of Insurer in respect of Motor Third Party Insurance Business) Regulations, 2015.

"For the financial year 2017-18, the insurer did not fulfill the obligation and had a shortfall of Rs.104.6 crores (24.08 per cent), which amounts to non-compliance of Regulation 3 of Irdai (Obligation of Insurer in respect of Motor Third Party Insurance Business) Regulations, 2015," the order said.

It further said the insurer had not fulfilled the MTP obligations during the immediate previous financial year 2016-17 with a significant shortfall of ₹146 crore (38.59 per cent).

"Taking into consideration the repetitive nature of violation, magnitude of violation, and the submissions of the insurer that they are committed and are entering into various tie-ups to fulfill the MTP obligation, the Authority...hereby imposes a penalty of ₹25 lakh," the order said.

As per the order on Liberty General Insurance Limited, the penalty of ₹13 has been imposed for violation of norms.

EXPRESS READ

**Future lenders approve debt restructuring**

New Delhi: Lenders of debt-ridden Future Retail Ltd have approved a plan to restructure the existing financial debt of the company under an RBI-led resolution framework for Covid-19 related stress. The restructuring plan would now be forwarded for approval to an expert committee, formed by the central bank.

# March earnings, favourable global factors may soothe markets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMID high volatility, march quarterly (Q4FY21) earnings displayed by big firms may bring some respite to the stock market this week. After registering its second biggest fall of this year last Monday, the BSE Sensex saw a marginal recovery during the week but fell 759.29 points or 1.53 per cent to close at 48,832.03 and the NSE Nifty dropped 217 points or 1.46 per cent to close at 14,617.85.

"The Nifty is still not out of the woods as it continues to trade below the 50 DMA placed at 14,864. If it fails to break past the 15,000 mark then the probability of downside goes up. However, as we expect a strong earnings season going forward it could restrict any major downside that could come due to rise in Covid cases," Rusmik Oza, Executive Vice President, Head of Fundamental Research at Kotak Securities. On Monday, the market will first react to HDFC Bank's March quarter earnings announced on April 17 which fell short of investors' expectations. Going ahead,

**We expect volatility to remain high as the market is expected to continue its focus on updates of state-wise restrictions and the spread of the virus...** — Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services

ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Nestle India, Tata Steel Long Products, ICICI Securities, Majesco, Tata Steel Bsl and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services are among 55 companies that will release their quarterly earnings.

"We expect volatility to remain high as the market is expected to continue its focus on updates of state-wise restrictions and the spread of the virus. Stock-specific movements based on upcoming results can be expected in the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Market may also welcome the correction seen in US bond yields that came down to around 1.53-1.6 levels, from 1.77 levels seen (the 14-month high) at March-end, thus reducing the risk of foreign investment outflow to some extent.

"Rebound in global growth and upbeat corporate earnings are keeping equity markets at elevated levels. The US 10 Yr bond yield is also slowly coming off from the recent rise which is also providing some relief to global equity markets" said Oza. However, it won't be a big surprise if the market sees another major correction this week with more states imposing curfews and curbs.

## De Villiers open to making SA comeback for T20 WC

Versatile South African cricketer AB de Villiers on Sunday said it will be "fantastic" to make an international comeback ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup. The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India in October-November. "If I can slot in, it will be fantastic," de Villiers said after he played another match-winning innings for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.



# MAXWELL-COME START

Australian's second consecutive half-century helps Bangalore to third victory

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

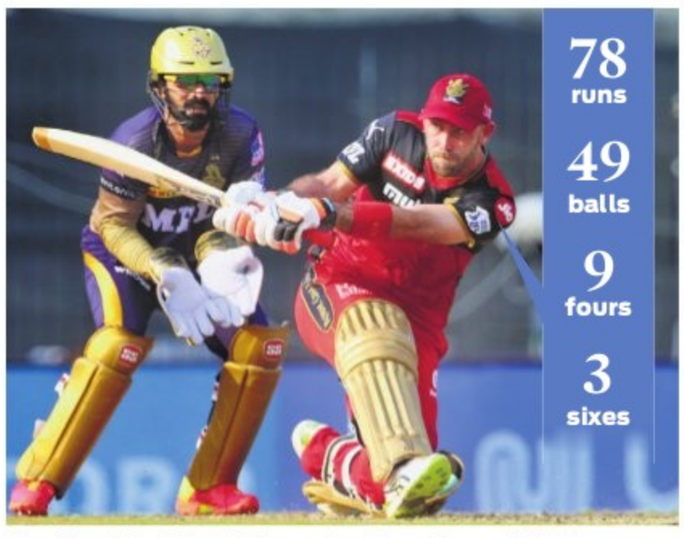
EVEN before the IPL auction in February, stars had aligned for Glenn Maxwell. That Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore— the eventual settlement for the all-rounder — would go big for him at the auction might have come as a surprise, but there was more to it. Despite Maxwell tallying only 169 and 108 runs in his last two IPL seasons in 2018 and 2020, the two franchises believed in a different set-up. Without the burden of being the face of their overseas recruit, the Australian, they believed, could thrive.

Bangalore, especially, believed his close proximity to captain Virat Kohli and the feeling of making him wanted would do a world of good for a player, who had had mental health issues not so long ago. From the moment Bangalore bought him at the auction spending ₹14.25 crore, they not only placed faith on him, but believed that in a team also having Kohli and AB de Villiers, there would be less pressure on Maxwell. To place that kind of faith on a player who hadn't crossed fifty in his last two IPL editions was a big punt. But it was the sort of trust that make players like Maxwell feel at home.

The arrival of Sanjay Bangar as batting consultant, under whom Maxwell tallied 552 runs, also shouldn't be overlooked.

"The most important thing is he looks happier. Generally as a sportsperson, you would like to be in a good space where you are enjoying the time with your teammates, you feel confident about your own game. In order to feel confident, you need to prepare well and I think Maxi has prepared well. He also had a strong series against New Zealand before the IPL. Lot of things have added up. Here he feels Virat, myself, the rest of the teammates, the support staff back him. We know he has got extraordinary talent and to blossom, he needed to be in happy space," said De Villiers, who scored 76.

Maxwell knows his isn't the first overseas name on the team list. On Sunday when he walked into the middle in the third over against Kolkata Knight Riders, Bangalore were in a spot of bother thanks to Varun Chakravarthy's twin strikes in his first over on a Chepauk pitch were the ball came on to the bat nicely for a change. RCB's decision to hold back De Villiers meant, instead of carrying on with Varun, Kolkata held him back. It allowed Maxwell to not only to find his groove, but wrestle the momentum back from Kolkata. By the time Varun came back in the eighth over, Maxwell, well and truly in, hit him for a six and a four. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**




Glexnn Maxwell has 176 runs in three outings with a strike-rate of 149.15 | SPORTZPICS

**Brief scores:** RCB 204/4 in 20 ovs (Maxwell 78, Ab de Villiers 76 n.o; Chakravarthy 2/39) **bt** KKR 166/8 in 20 ovs (Morgan 29, Russell 31; Jamieson 3/41, Chahal 2/34, Harshal 2/17).

**TODAY'S MATCH: LIVE ON SS1 @ 7.30 PM**

With one win and one defeat, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals face-off at the Wankhede in search of momentum. Talking points...

**TROUBLE AT THE TOP**

Ruturaj Gaikwad has struggled in two matches, which could open the door for Robin Uthappa. With bowling being a weak link, CSK could be tempted to bring in Lungi Ngidi.

**CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY**

Royals have a strong team, but whether they will continue to perform to their potential is the question. Given they won the previous tie, expect them to go with an unchanged XI.

## Big lift for Jhilli, clinches gold in Asian C'ship

PTI @ Tashkent

INDIA'S Jhilli Dalabehera clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category in a severely depleted two-lifter field at the Asian Weightlifting Championship here on Sunday.

Jhilli, a junior world championships bronze medallist, lifted 69kg in the snatch and followed that up by 88kg in clean jerk for a total of 157kg to finish on top of the podium in all three categories of the gold level Olympic qualifier event which was postponed last year due to the pandemic.

However, 45kg is not a Olympic weight category. The silver medal went to Philippines' Mary Flor Diaz for her effort of 135kg (60kg+75kg). With the win, Jhilli bettered her silver-winning performance in the last edition. However, it was an underwhelming performance as she had lifted 162kg (71kg+91kg) at the same event in 2019. The other Indian in the fray, Sneha Soren finished third in group B of the women's 55kg event.

**EXPRESS READ**

### 5 Indian boxers enter quarterfinals on Day 5

NEW DELHI: Five boxers marched into the quarterfinals of the Youth World Championships on Day 5. Biswamitra Chongtham, Ankit Narwal, Vishal Gupta, Sachin and Gitika were the boxers who advanced.

### National record for swimmer Nataraj

TASHKENT: Srihari Nataraj created a national record in 50m backstroke while winning his second gold of the Uzbekistan Open Championship here. The 20-year-old clocked 25.11 seconds to bag the top prize.

### Federer says he will play at Roland Garros

PARIS: Roger Federer said that he will play the French Open at Roland Garros this year having skipped the 2020 edition to recover from knee surgery. Federer captured Roland Garros title in 2009.

## DC VS PBKS

## Dhawan & Co pull off thrilling victory against Punjab Kings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A PUNCH innings from Shikhar Dhawan helped Delhi Capitals coast past Punjab Kings' total of 195 with 10 balls to spare.

Chasing 196, Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw went after everything as they went about using the powerplay to their advantage. By the time Shaw was dismissed for 32, they were already 59/1 off just 5.3 overs. Even if Steve Smith, making his debut, did not impress, Dhawan, who hit 13 fours and two sixes, scored 92 off just 49 balls. Marcus Stoinis stayed on to close the game. This is Delhi's second victory and he they climbed to second spot in the IPL standings. Punjab are placed at seventh spot.

Earlier, Punjab, riding on a century stand between KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal, helped them post 195/4. But Rahul's slow scoring — he took 51 balls for his 61 — set the innings back a touch just when it was crying out for momentum. Some of the ammunition was supplied by Deepak Hooda and Shahrukh Khan at the end.

**Brief scores:** Punjab Kings 195/4 in 20 ovs (Rahul 61, Agarwal 69) **lost to** Delhi Capitals 198/4 in 18.2 ovs (Shaw 32, Dhawan 92, Stoinis 27 n.o; Richardson 2/41).

## Frustrated Fouaad rues missing out on Oly berth, more shows remain

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

A 'shit story'. That's how Fouaad Mirza put it as his bid to qualify for the Games hit a pitstop at an event in Strzegom, Poland, on Saturday. He fell short of meeting his Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) — even if India has won a quota place for Fouaad to be eligible to compete in Tokyo he has to meet his MER — after not completing one of the courses. He still has a few more shows to get it done. However, when speaking over phone from Poland, he sounded despondent.

'This means I don't get my qualification (yet)," he said. "It's very upsetting, I still have a few more shows left where I can achieve this. Just upset that I haven't able to get it done. A silly, stupid mistake and I think... yeah... one of those that can happen."

What happened? "Dajara was very good in the cross country. But unfortunately, I had one stop in one of the last combinations on course. I don't think it was a mistake of her's. She locked on to a fence that wasn't in her class, so she kind of wasn't supposed to jump it but she locked on to it. I had to take her attention of that jump and tried to refocus her... it all happened so fast and she ended up not knowing where she was supposed to go and ended up having a stop."

**It's very upsetting, I still have a few more shows left where I can achieve this. Just upset that I haven't able to get it done. A silly, stupid mistake and I think... yeah... one of those that can happen.**

Fouaad Mirza

It was clear that the doubles Asian Games medallist had backed himself to get it done at the earliest after a tumultuous year that included multiple lockdowns in his base of Germany, cancelled events and more cancelled shows because of the spread of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) in February.

"It sums up a shit story emotionally," he said. "But that's sport and at the moment with what is happening... also didn't make life easy with Herpes (Virus), second wave, all sorts of things... but sure we will come back fighting in the next event."

It's possible he may not have Seigneur Medicott for his next event also as he is still recovering from an injury. "The ground was very deep and because he's recovering from an injury, I don't think it would have been wise, so we pulled him out. Not sure where the next show will be but we will take the horses back, regroup, replan and start again. That's that."

## Barca lift Copa del Rey

AFP @ Madrid

LIONEL Messi scored twice, including a stunning solo goal, as Barcelona blew away Athletic Bilbao to win the Copa del Rey on Saturday, consigning their opponents to a second final defeat in two weeks. The cup was won and lost in a whirlwind 12 minutes in Seville, which saw Barca score four times to clinch an emphatic 4-0 victory, with Messi at his devastating best.

It remains to be seen if his seventh Copa del Rey triumph is the last trophy Messi lifts in Barcelona colours but if this was to be a final flourish, the 33-year-old crafted a fitting farewell. "It's very special to be captain of this team where I have spent my whole life and very special to be able to lift this cup," Messi said.

## Deepak fails to get past Yazdani, gets silver

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

ON the last day of the Asian Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan, India's freestyle wrestler Deepak Punia was pitted against reigning Olympic and world champion Hassan Yazdani in the 86kg final. The clash was always going to be a tough one for the 21-year-old Deepak as the legendary Iranian wrestler last lost an international bout way back in October 2019.

And expectedly, the two-time world champion romped home to an easy 10-0 victory on technical superiority leaving much for the Haryana wrestler to ponder over in the next couple of months. The 26-year-old Yazdani made quick moves and gave no time to his Indian counterpart as he inflicted takedowns to amass points. This was Deepak's first bout against Yazdani. "It was good that Deepak finally competed against Yazdani. He needs to find ways to beat the Iranian wrestler if he wishes to finish on the podium at the Tokyo Games," Virender Dalal, Deepak's childhood coach, told this daily.

The duo were slated to meet in the 2019 World Championships in Nur-Sultan final but Deepak conceded the bout to Yazdani due to an ankle injury. The second-place finish had helped Deepak to make an Olympic cut. "The good thing is that Deepak managed to stop Yazdani from rolling him over. The Iranian accumulates points by rolling over his opponents. Deepak is a quick learner and I am quite sure he will learn a lot from this clash and come better prepared when the two meet again," added the coach.

WATCH YOUNG INDIA DEBATE THEIR HEARTS OUT | TODAY FROM 6 PM | EDEXLIVE.COM

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Samarth Rishi, Army Public School, Bolarum
Yamini L M, Kensri School, Bengaluru
Bhadra Suresh, Good Shepherd, Thiruvananthapuram
Anu D R, The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Chennai
Aryan Hotta, DAV Vedanta Intnl. School, Lanjigarh

SCAN TO STREAM LIVE 6:00 PM

LEARNING IN ONE'S MOTHER TONGUE INSTEAD OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM TILL GRADE 5 WILL PRESERVE OUR LANGUAGES, CULTURE | Streaming at 7:15 PM

SCAN TO STREAM LIVE 7:15 PM

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Kaavya M, Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, Kolkata
Nandini H Popat, The PSBB Millennium School, Coimbatore
Diya D, Oakridge Intnl. School, Hyderabad
Saideep Keshri, Apeejay School, New Delhi
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Researchers from Goethe University have discovered a 3,500 year-old honeypot from Africa, presenting the oldest direct evidence for honey collection in the continent. They found beeswax residues in the potsherds of the Nok culture, which existed between 1,500 BCE and the beginning of the Common Era and is known particularly for its elaborate terracotta sculpture.

Young people gather to talk on a street in the Israeli capital of Tel Aviv on Sunday, after authorities announced that face masks were no longer needed to be worn in public spaces | AFP

EXFILE HEALTH

## ISRAELIS TAKE MASKS OFF

Israelis stepped into the streets without masks on Sunday for the first time in a year, a key milestone as the country vaccinates its way out of the pandemic

### 'We can start living again'

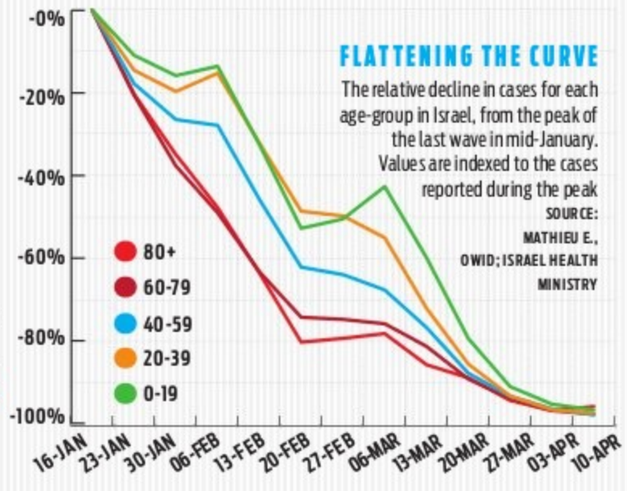
Israeli health authorities announced recently that masks would no longer be required in public outdoor spaces. For Gamulka, a project manager, the good news came at the perfect time: just two weeks before her wedding. It will be "very nice to celebrate with everyone, now without masks," she said. "The pictures will be great! I'm very relieved. We can start living again"

**61%** of the country's population has been vaccinated, a figure that is matched only by Bhutan (*TNIE*, April 6)

**5.34 MN** people vaccinated with at least one dose

**ECONOMY IN FULL SWING**

That has allowed the re-opening of schools, bars, restaurants and indoor gatherings -- although masks are still required in indoor public spaces




**10,000** After vaccinations, Israel's coronavirus caseload tumbled from some 10,000 new infections per day as recently as mid-January, to around 200 cases a day

### Highest infection rate

Israel just months ago had the world's highest infection rate, a coronavirus outbreak that left 6,300 people dead among 8,36,000 cases

### Raw deal for Palestinians

The situation in Israel is in stark contrast to the occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip, where infection rates remain high and vaccinations are low. Rights groups have urged Israel to supply vaccines to the 4.8 million Palestinians living there, but Israel says that falls to the the Palestinian Authority. Gaza said on Sunday it had registered a new daily high of 23 coronavirus fatalities

# 'Data doesn't yet show need for 3rd vax dose'

Experts say the vaccination drive has not gone on long enough to shine light on immunological memory

**MEDICINE**

NEW DELHI: More data is needed to establish if a third anti-Covid booster dose will more effectively help in fighting the surge in infections in the country as currently its requirement has been based more upon conjecture, health experts said.

India is battling a massive surge in Covid-19 cases and health ministry data updated on Sunday showed a record single-day rise of 2,61,500 coronavirus infections.

Pfizer and Moderna recently announced that people who have received both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna coronavirus vaccines will probably need a booster shot this year and might need an annual shot thereafter.

Earlier this month, an expert panel of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)had permitted Bharat Biotech to give a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin to a few volunteers in its clinical trials.

Currently, people eligible for inoculation in the country are being administered Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Covaxin. Both vaccines are being given in two doses in a gap of up to eight weeks. Bharat Biotech has proposed a booster dose after six months of the second dose.

Talking about the applicability and effectiveness of a third dose, especially in view of the raging second COVID-19 wave, experts said the third booster dose needs more studies to determine if it will help in fighting infections more effectively.

Samiran Panda, Director of the ICMR National AIDS Research Institute, said if the companies are deciding on giving a third booster dose after two doses then it should be based upon data on immunological memory.

This means that after two doses what is the status of antibody concentration and after how long it comes below a level after which one needs the third booster dose, he said.

'I wonder why the companies are suggesting this and what is the data because Covid-19 we came to know in December 2019 and the vaccines were made in April and August. So we don't have enough data and I think the proposal for third dose is based on a conjecture rather than the time that needs to lapse after which we will have data on how many shots are needed. So time has not come as yet,' Panda told *PTI*.

He said now when these companies are talking about boosters there comes the question what would these boosters do.

'These boosters are suppose to boost up the immunity to tackle the dwindling concentration of antibodies. It has been found that after 6-9 months the concentration of the antibody comes down but that was mostly in natural infections," Panda said. "For vaccination, how long does it take to come down is not known because the vaccination drive recently started it has not been even five months,' he said.

Dr Giridhara R Babu, professor and the Head of lifecourse epidemiology at the Public Health Foundation of India, told *PTI* that one needs to study and see if the booster dose will help in fighting the disease more effectively.

'How long the protection lasts, based on that it needs to be decided when a booster has to be given. One needs to study and see if the boosters will help in fighting the disease more effectively,' he said.

## FACT OF THE MATTER

### Mars chopper flight today?

**TECHNOLOGY**

NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter could make its first flight over the Red Planet as soon as Monday, the US space agency reported, following a delay of more than a week due to a possible technical issue. The mini-helicopter's trip will mark the first-ever powered, controlled flight on another planet, and will help NASA reap invaluable data about the conditions on Mars. "NASA is targeting no earlier than Monday, April 19, for the first flight of its Ingenuity Mars Helicopter," the space agency reported Saturday. Data will return to Earth "a few hours following the autonomous flight," which would take off at approximately 3:30 am (13:00 IST), NASA said. Ingenuity's first trip was initially set for last Sunday, but was delayed after a potential issue emerged during a rotor test.

### Experimental Covid drug

**MEDICINE**

An experimental oral antiviral drug has shown potential in prevention and treatment of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19 infections, say researchers. The antiviral – MK-4482 -- significantly decreased levels of virus and disease damage in the lungs of hamsters treated for SARS-CoV-2 infection, according to a new study from the US National Institutes of Health scientists. MK-4482 is currently undergoing human clinical trials. In the study, published in *Nature Communications*, the scientists found MK-4482 treatment effective when provided up to 12 hours before or 12 hours after infecting the hamsters with SARS-CoV-2. MK-4482 treatment potentially could mitigate high-risk exposures to the virus.

**TRACKS ON THE HILLS**

A toy train runs on the Kalka-Shimla UNESCO World Heritage Railway Track on World Heritage Day on Sunday | PTI

# J&J vax use could resume this week

**MEDICINE**

WASHINGTON: The United States will likely move to resume Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine this coming week, possibly with restrictions or broader warnings after reports of some very rare blood clot cases, the government's top infectious diseases expert said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, in a series of news show interviews, said he expects a decision when advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meet Friday to discuss the pause in J&J's single-dose vaccine.

"I would be very surprised if we don't have a resumption in some form by Friday," he said. "I don't really anticipate that they're going to want it stretch it out a bit longer." Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, said he believed that federal regulators could bring the shots back with restrictions based on age or gender or with a blanket warning, so that it is administered in a way "a little bit different than we were before the pause."

The J&J vaccine has been in limbo after the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration said last week they needed more evidence to decide if a handful of unusual blood clots were linked to the shot — and if so, how big the risk is. The reports are rare.

## Developer of PDFs dies at 81

**TECHNOLOGY**

Charles "Chuck" Geschke — the co-founder of Adobe Inc. who helped develop Portable Document Format technology, or PDFs — died at 81. Geschke, who lived in the San Francisco Bay Area suburb of Los Altos, died Friday, the company said. "As co-founders of Adobe, Chuck and John Warnock developed groundbreaking software that has revolutionised how people communicate," Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen said. After earning a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University, Geschke began working at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, where he met Warnock, the Mercury News reported.

# STUDENTS' STRUGGLES PUSH TEACHER TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN PERU

**EDUCATION**

CHUGUR: As schools across Peru closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, Pedro Castillo tried to find a way to keep classes going for his 20 fifth- and sixth-standard students. But in his impoverished rural community deep in the Andes, his efforts were futile.

Seventeen of the students didn't even have access to a cellphone. Tablets promised by the government never arrived.

"I called my students who have a basic cellphone, and the father answers you from the farm. You cannot connect with the child," he said. "You call again in the afternoon or evening. The children don't answer because they are exhausted in bed."

"Where is the state?" Castillo, 51, told The Associated Press after a day of planting sweet potatoes on his own land.

It was the last straw for Castillo, who over 25 years had seen his students struggle in crumbling schools where teachers also cook, sweep floors and file paperwork. He'd already dabbled in activism with the local teachers' union and helped lead a national strike in 2017. But now he went further, tossing his name into a crowd of 18 candidates in Peru's presidential election.

Defying the polls, the elementary school teacher came first in the April 11 voting, albeit with less than 20% of the overall vote. The stunning result gave him a place in June's presidential runoff against Keiko Fujimori, one of Peru's most established political figures and the daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori. It is her third attempt to become president.

Castillo's unlikely campaign comes at a turbulent time for the South American nation that has suffered like few others from the COVID-19 pandemic. It recently ran through three presidents in a week after one was removed by congress over corruption allegations.

# '3% of world's land areas ecologically intact'

**ENVIRONMENT**

TAIPEI: Only 3% of our planet's land surfaces may be ecologoical intact by way of having the full range of native species and being unblemished by human activity, new research suggested.

The findings are an eye-opener because the estimate, published in *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, is far lower than previous estimates of 20% - 40% undamaged habitats. The pristine environments in the 3% area were mainly in regions that are less hospitable for humans, including the Sahara desert, boreal forests of Canada and tundra in Greenland.

"There have been many assessments of 'intactness' in recent years but most of these use measures of anthropogenic impact at a site, rather than faunal intactness or ecological integrity," the international team of scientists wrote in the journal.

"The results show that it might be possible to increase the area with ecological intactness back to up to 20% through the targeted reintroductions of species that have been lost in areas where human impact is still low, provided the threats to their survival can be addressed and numbers rebuilt to a level where they fulfil their functional role," biologist Andrew Plumptre told the Daily Mail.

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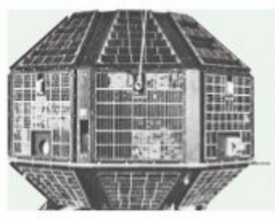


DAY'S DIARY

## Aryabhata launched

India's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched into orbit by a Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket from Kapustin Yar, Russia, on this day in 1976

**THE STRUCTURE**

The spacecraft was quasispherical in shape and carried three experiments for the measurement of cosmic X-rays, solar neutrons, and Gamma rays, and a sensor for the study of the Ionosphere

**THE LAUNCH**

The launch was witnessed by ISRO chairman S Dhawan. The ground telemetry and telecommand stations were established at SHAR Centre in Sriharikota

**THE FALL OF ARYABHATA**

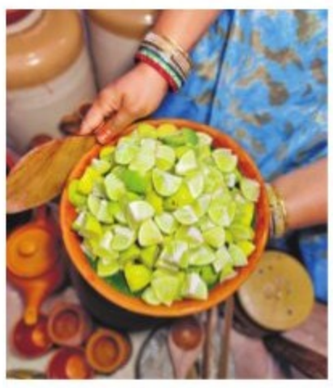
Aryabhata operated only for five days before all communication was lost due to a failure in its electrical power system. It re-entered the atmosphere of Earth after 17 years

*Lagaam to commence shooting next week*

PG 4

# FOOD FOR SOUL

City-based Shivboojitha's food page on Instagram, Foodzeee, can make you fall in love with South Indian food all over again, with its simple-looking recipes and traditional Indian aesthetics



Slices of life from Shivboojitha's Foodzeee

*I think more than me, my mother is enjoying this viral life more. Now, she also pitches in while ideating the menu or deciding how to shoot it.*

Shivaboojitha

MONIKA MONALISA

*Avakkai, kovil vadai, kulkul, pulima* and many more of these authentic South Indian dishes...city-based food blogger Shivboojitha's Instagram page Foodzeee, with close to 5.5 lakh followers, will make you crave for these dishes after watching her videos. The short videos on this page have also been binge-watched by Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor. On Saturday, the actor shared the *avakkai* (mango pickle)-making a video on her Instagram, captioning it, "Best Indian food blogger I've (seen) in a while.. Brilliant stuff..the food looks yummy, and I love the gorgeous Indian aesthetic (sic)".

Needless to say, these words by Kapoor made Shivboojitha's day. Calling it as one of the exciting things that had happened to her since she started blogging, Shivaboojitha says, "I had no idea about it since we get a lot of updates every day. One of the followers informed me about it but of course, it was exciting and overwhelming." The appreciation means a lot to the 23-year-old blogger. "Not just because she is so famous but since they professionally deal with angles and shots better, her comment on the aesthetics of the video means a lot," she says.

The USP of the video is she uses traditional vessels. Her mother Swarna Lakshmi's bangle-clad hands adorned with *henna*, with the identity of the hosts completely anonymous, adds to the aesthetics. Shivboojitha has been running the Instagram page for the past five years but got the taste of viral fame in October 2020 after she changed her format. "I used to do the cooking initially but it was a task to manage both camera and the vessels together. That's when I changed the format by using traditional cookware and roping in my mother to do the cooking. After that, the reaction from my followers has been amazing," says the foodie, who prefers to keep their identity hidden, and wants her preparations to be the star of the videos. "We don't want to reveal our identities as of now. We are liking it that way. But I think more than me, my mother is enjoying this viral life more. Now, she also pitches in while ideating the menu or deciding how to shoot it," she signs off.

## GRUB HUB

**Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.**

**THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY**

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will also receive a complimentary voucher code (worth ₹2,500) from Chowman which can be redeemed from all its Bengaluru outlets**

**THE RIGHT ANSWERS**

1) Donne Biryani-Halli Jonne biryani 2) Ironhill-1.3L sqft 3) Bangarpet Pani Puri

**FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT**

1 Akhil Dias
2 Anisha Dias
3 Mayuri Nataraja

**Conditions apply

# Stories on fabric

Museum of Art & Photography's virtual exhibition, Painted Stitches, Woven Stories, throws light on the historical and cultural significance of kantha quilting

EXPRESS FEATURES

Warmth of a loving one and a familiar smell of nostalgia... Kantha quilts surely bring back a lot of memories from the past. It does not just keep one warm but also shows the craftsmanship of the hands who have made it. Paying an ode to these arts and the artists, city-based Museum of Art & Photography is holding a virtual exhibition, Painted Stitches, Woven Stories, on kantha quilting practices in India.

The exhibition unfolds a dialogue between interpretations of 19th and 20th-century quilting techniques of kantha and works by Indian modern and contemporary artists, who continue to provide visibility to the weaving practices of kantha textiles. Vaishnavi Kambadur, who has curated the exhibition along with Arnika Ahldag, says that for centuries, women across the world have been making textiles in their homes, often out of need, or simply to recycle old material. They use it to keep their children warm, to cover a table, to hold their precious belongings or even to decorate the floors and walls of their homes.

Ahldag is also of the similar view. She says that kanthas are special as they find a place in so many Indian households and even across the world. "They speak of the makers and their surroundings; yet we do not know the names of these makers in most cases," says Ahldag, adding that they wanted to make people look at kanthas again and understand their distinctive role in influencing the work and practices of modern and contemporary artists.

Agreeing, Kambadur says, one of the primary aims of the exhibition is to make people aware of the value and legacy of kantha quilts. "We want viewers to understand the deeply intimate role of a kantha in the lives of its makers, whether two centuries ago or in the contemporary times. For instance, the contemporary artist Bhasha Chakrabarti's quilts provide a personal story of her relationship with her mother while challenging the histories of kantha," she details.

To emphasise the relevance of the textile in the history of art, the exhibition explores how the repurposing techniques of the kanthas of Undivided Bengal left an imprint on several artists who grew up observing the weaving practices. For instance, the popular motifs and stitches of kanthas form an important element in the works of acclaimed Indian artists such as Meera Mukherjee, Jyoti Bhatt and Arpita Singh. However, Kambadur believes that textile art is yet to get the same status as the art or sculpture. "But the dialogue has started and hopefully we see the change soon," she says optimistically.

**AT THE EXHIBITION**

The exhibition unfolds a dialogue between interpretations of 19th and 20th-century quilting techniques of kantha and works by Indian modern and contemporary artists, who continue to provide visibility to the weaving practices of kantha textiles.

Vaishnavi Kambadur

## CITY READ

**New course**

MyLogicBusiness Management School is launching a certified operational accountant programme for management students. The course aims to develop the industrial skills required for the commerce graduates to tread their way into multinational companies. The certified course is focused in bridging the gap between the academic curriculum and industry requirements.

## *Rooting for the king*

*Bigg Boss Kannada Season 8* contestants pen down letters showing sympathy to the host Kichcha Sudeep as the actor could not make it to the screen during the weekend, owing to health issues. The contestants expressed their love and care through their letters and also dubbed his absence in the show as a 'kingdom without a king'.

SPORTS CORNER

# *Athletes get a shot in the arm, amid pandemic*

EXPRESS FEATURES

For a year, sports activities have been restricted, depriving athletes of their regular practice and opportunities. For the first time in a year, since COVID-19 spread in the state, the Karnataka government has decided to support sportspersons in terms of health, nutrition and practices to help them stay mentally and physically fit.

A shot in the arm for them, the state Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) in Bengaluru have entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) where health experts from RGUHS will guide talented sportspersons, said Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar.

The Department has designed a programme to provide quality health care to resident sportspersons in 34 sports hostels in the state. This will help talented sportspersons from rural areas who are undergoing training in sports hostels. It will create awareness among these persons regarding diet, nutrition, health, sports medicine and fitness.

"RGUHS is known for its research in various fields, including sports medicine. The experts from this university will guide the sportspersons. Daily medical check-up, information regarding injury treatment methods, balanced diet and practices to be followed to keep them mentally and physically fit, will be taught to them. Sports hostels can seek the help of various expert doctors in medical colleges in their respective districts," Sudhakar said. Vice-chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Dr S Sacchidanand said that a meeting will be convened by May 1 to discuss attaching of one government medical college and hospital, with the respective sports hostels of each district.

"In districts where there is no government medical college and hospital, a private medical college and hospital will be attached to the sports hostel. We will take care of their sports injuries and give nutritional advice, free of cost," he explained. The minister said that we need to question ourselves, as to how many medals we are winning in Olympics in a country like India with a population over 130 crore.

"There is no dearth of talent in our country, but proper guidance is the need of the hour. The sports department is putting efforts to introduce new concepts and RGUHS will assist them in this task. Residents of 34 sports hostels should get maximum benefit out of it. This will yield better results and earn good fame for the country," Sudhakar added.

Kruthik Krishna, who graduated out of the under-19 cricket format believes that this collaboration will help many sportspersons from economically-backward families. "I feel this will encourage sports enthusiasts from tier-2 and tier-3 cities who are not financially stable to avail medical treatment at ease. This will definitely boost their confidence and will give them no second thoughts in shifting to sports hostels anywhere in the state," says Krishna.

Meanwhile, Elvis Joseph, founder of Bangalore Sports School foundation, says, "The proposal seems good. But we need to see how far will this be implemented. I think this facility should be extended to all sportspersons across the state and not just the ones living in the sports hostel."

Kids hard at practice prior to lockdown

"There is no dearth of talent in our country, but proper guidance is the need of the hour. The sports department is putting efforts to introduce new concepts and RGUHS will assist them in this task."

Dr K Sudhakar

# WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

## FOLK STYLE

Banyan Tree's Teen Prahar is presenting a hybrid musical format with folk tunes of Rajasthan. Manganiyar singer Mame Khan, along with percussionists Pt. Anindo Chatterjee, Pt. Bhawani Shankar, will feature in the concert. The event is also available online.
**When:** April 17, 5pm
**Where:** Chowdiah Memorial Hall
**Tickets:** bookmyshow.com

## MANGO MANIA

Khandani Rajdhani brings their famous Aamlicious Food Festival this year. The annual feast will be held till May 31, 2021, across all Khandani Rajdhani outlets in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. On the menu are aamras, aamrakhand, mango raita kachi kairi ring dhokla, ker sangri, mango pulao and mango jalebi.

## ART AND CRAFT

Textiles and carpet manufactures, Cottage Craft Industries is organisng a Ugadi expo of Indian handicrafts and handlooms. The expo will include silk and cotton sarees, silk stoles, pashmina shawls, handloom fabrics, hand-knotted carpets, brass, wood and marble handicrafts, jewellery, paintings, pottery, and more. **When:** Till April 18
**Where:** Shubharam complex, MG Road

## MUSIC SUMMER CAMP

Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts (SaPa) will be starting an interactive online course in music for kids of all age groups. The online course includes bhajans, shlokas, pop music, among other for kids to experience music from the safety of their homes. Fee: ₹2,000
**When:** Apr 15- 22
**Details:** SaPa India website

Enjoy the IPL match with a wide range of beverages and starters, including BBQ , peri peri chicken wings, beer and more **WHEN:** Till May 30 **WHERE:** Cafe Felix, Trinity Circle

### COLD BREW FEST

Starbucks has announced the Cold Brew Fest that will be on till April 11. Select variants like Cold Brew Black, Nitro Cold Brew Black, Vegan Cold Brew, Nitro Vegan Cold Brew, Cold Brew with Ginger Ale, Nitro Cold Brew with Ginger Ale and more will be **available at** special prices of ₹250 for the Cold Brew range and ₹300 for the Nitro Cold Brew range (including taxes).

### Award function

Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust is organising an award ceremony to confer the SV Narayanaswamy Rao National Award to renowned vocalist Vidwan Madurai TN Seshagopalan.
**When:** May 1
**Where:** Gayana Samaja Auditorium, KR Road
**Details:** 9886088869

### Decor collection

The Yellow Dwelling, a contemporary sustainable furnishing and décor expert, is introducing a collection of cushions, curtains, teepee tents and more for kids.
**Where:** The Yellow Dwelling stores, HSR Layout
**Details:** 96062 46004

### IPL Feast

Enjoy a spread of special menu curated by Chef Vikas Seth for the cricket fans. The menu includes herb tossed epazote mushrooms, grilled zucchini and non-vegetarian specialties like cilantro marinated grilled shrimp and smoky chipotle chicken and exciting beverages.
**Where:** Sanchez, UB City & Indiranagar
**When:** Till May 30, 11am onwards

### Fashion Expo

Kala Silk Cotton Expo is organising an exhibition displaying products of weavers, artisans and craftsmen from Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states. The exhibition will feature ethnic wear ranging from home linen to Kancheepuram materials and more. **When:** Till April 22 **Where:** Five O Gallery, Vijayanagar **Details:** 9391628516

### Summer treats

Magnolia Bakery launches its summer dish- Mango Cheesecake. The sumer treat consists of creamy vanilla cheesecake, crackers and mangoes. **When:** Until April 30
**Cost:** Rs 320+ tax

## QUICK FIX

### What's cooking

**IN YOUR KITCHEN?**
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

### RIDGE GOURD AND RAW MANGO DAL

**INGREDIENTS**
- **Ridge gourd:** 1 cup, peeled and cubed
- **Raw mango:** 1/2 cup, peeled and cubed
- **Toor dal:** 1 cup
- **Turmeric powder:** ¼ tsp
- Salt

**FOR TADKA**
- **Oil:** 2 tsps
- **Hing:** 1 pinch
- **Mustard seeds:** ¼ tsp
- **Green chillies:** 2, chopped
- Curry leaves
- Fresh coriander leaves

**METHOD**
- In a cooker, add dal, ridge gourd and mango.
- Add turmeric powder and three cups of water.
- Pressure cook till done.
- Mash together the dal and vegetables very lightly. Add salt and chopped coriander Leaves, mix well.
- For tadka, heat oil and crackle mustard seeds. Add hing, curry leaves and chopped chillies. Pour on dal and serve hot.

**— Chitra Ramachandran, Bengaluru**

## FIT BIT

### EKA PADASANA

(ONE FOOT POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'eka' means one, 'pada' means foot, and 'asana' means pose. It is a balancing pose and gives a sense of control of bodily movements. Our sense of body balance is controlled by the cerebellum. As a child, we first learn how to walk on two feet. It is a great balancing act by itself, which we learn with a lot of trial and error. Yet, when we grow up, we take it for granted. Even though it looks like a simple act, it involves tremendous neural activity and neuro-muscular coordination to achieve it. This neuro-muscular coordination can become weaker either with age or with specific neurological conditions.

**STEPS**
- Stand upright with legs slightly apart.
- Inhale and raises your hand, expanding the chest.
- Interlock the fingers and hold the hands together.
- Now, slowly bend forward from the hips, keeping the upper body, head and arms in a straight line. The upper body should be perpendicular to the legs.
- Transfer the entire body weight on the right leg and try to raise the left leg backwards slowly. Raise it as high as it goes, keeping it in a straight line with the trunk.
- The right leg would be straight and perpendicular to the rest of the body or at 90 degrees with the right leg looking like a 'T'.
- Breathe normally and hold this position for as long as you feel comfortable. To concentrate better, focus your gaze on your hands.
- After a few seconds, lower the left leg back to the floor and return to the upright position.
- Now lower your arms slowly and return to the initial position.
- Relax for a minute before repeating the asana with the other leg.

**BENEFITS**
- Improves balance and strength of the ankles, leg muscles, hips, back, arms and wrists.
- Improves blood circulation in the body.
- Since the body is held straight in the pose on a single leg along with synchronised breath, it results in improving the nervous coordination.

**LIMITATIONS**
- People with lower back pain, arthritis or any ankle injuries should not practise this.
- High blood pressure patients should not practise.
- Not recommended for people with heart problems.

*— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai*

## SOUND BOARD

### BOOKS AND BOBA
Books & Boba is a book club dedicated to books written by Asian and Asian American authors. Every episode discusses books from a range of genres such as contemporary, historical fiction, sci-fi, fantasy and memoirs.
- On Apple Podcasts

### START-UP STORIES
Jonathan Moules talks to entrepreneurs about building successful brands, giving birth during a funding round, and rebuilding a reputation in the wake of bankruptcy. Real stories from those who've done it.
- On Spotify

### SHE SAYS SHE'S FINE
She Says She's Fine is a women's health podcast hosted by gynaecologist, Dr Munjaal Kapadia, whose mission is to bust the shackles around the patient-doctor hierarchy, and create a friendly, warm environment for his patients to be treated.
- On Stitcher

### THE BIOLOGY OF SUPERHEROES
Superheroes and science fiction meet the cutting edge of biological sciences. Hosted by two scientists, other scientists are brought in as guests to review superhero characters from movies or comic books based on the science behind what may have inspired every hero's power and abilities.
- On Apple Podcasts

### SIMPLY KEN
This podcast is about tackling the weekly conflicts of a comedian. From handling negativity to churning new content, stand-up comedian Kenny Sebastian weaves in his observational humour to make this a strictly no advice podcast.
- On Spotify

## POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

### SAARATHI
Rukmini is forcefully taken hostage by her enemy, Pratap, who wants to marry her. When Raja, her lover and a rickshaw driver by profession, finds out, he sets out for her hometown to rescue her.
- Cast: Darshan, Deepa Sannidhi, R Sarathkumar

### HUDUGARU
Prabhu, Chandru and Siddesh aspire to have a government job and try to lead a simple lifestyle. But their lives change dramatically when they attempt to unite two lovers.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Yogesh, Srinagar Kitty

### HUBLI
A man, who is a terror to antisocial elements, loses his memory. He is chased by a policeman, who regards him as a terrorist.
- Cast: Sudeep, Rakshita

### KODI PARAKKUTHU
A mafia leader tries to kill policeman Sivagiri, who took down his illegal businesses, with the help of a lookalike. Later, Sivagiri discovers that the leader is responsible for his father's death.
- Cast: ARS, Amala Akkineni, Bhagya

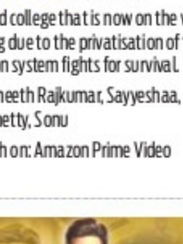
Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

## WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

### 1 THE GIANT LEAPS IN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY — AND WHO'S LEFT BEHIND BY KALIKA BALI
In this perspective-shifting talk, Computational linguist Kalika Bali outlines what happens when a language is omitted from the digital landscape — and what can be gained when communities keep pace with the future.



### 2 WHY CORPORATE DIVERSITY PROGRAMS FAIL — AND HOW SMALL TWEAKS CAN HAVE BIG IMPACT BY JOAN C WILLIAMS
DEI expert Joan C. Williams identifies five common patterns of bias that cause corporate programs to fail — and offers a data-driven approach to pinpoint where things go wrong and how to make progress instead.



### 3 A NASA ASTRONAUT'S LESSONS ON FEAR, CONFIDENCE AND PREPARING FOR SPACEFLIGHT BY MEGAN MCARTHUR
NASA astronaut Megan McArthur, who will take part in the SpaceX Crew-2 mission later this month, shares stellar life lessons on how to cultivate the resolve to do incredible things through preparation. A rare glimpse at what it takes to literally shoot for the stars.

### 4 4 MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA BY NOMAVA ZANAZO
Emerging markets expert Nomava Zanazo. debunks four myths and misunderstandings about Africa and its citizens — and invites businesses from overseas to share in its wealth...once they've done their research.

### 5 WHAT KIDS CAN TEACH ADULTS ABOUT ASKING FOR HELP BY YEYOON KIM
Do you need some help? It's OK to ask, says YeYoon Kim, a former kindergarten teacher who learned from her students how powerful and courageous it can be to reach out for support. Kim explores the happiness and joy that can come from leaning on those you love in times of need — and encourages us to start asking for help more often.

# NOW STREAMING

## REGIONAL

### MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)
The film takes you along on the journeys of three young professionals who are on the road to achieve their dreams and goals. In the process they make many discoveries about themselves and learn about relationships, friendship and love.
Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Ananya Kashyap
- Watch on: Netflix

### BOMBAY BEGUMS (Hindi, series)
Five ambitious women from various walks of life navigate dreams, desires and disappointments in modern-day Mumbai.
Cast: Pooja Bhatt, Plabita Borthakur, Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Aadhya Anand
- Watch on: Netflix

### JOJI (Malayalam)
An engineering dropout and the youngest son of a rich family lives with his aspirations of becoming super wealthy. Driven by greed and blind ambition, he decides to execute his plans following an unexpected event in the family.
Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Dileesh Pothan, Unnimaya Prasad, Baburaj
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

### THE PRIEST (Malayalam)
A priest and a police officer are trying to solve a set of mysterious suicides. As their investigation closes in, they discover another crime with even farther-reaching consequences.
Cast: Mammootty, Nikhila Varma, Manju Warrier
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

### HELLO CHARLIE (Hindi)
Charlie, a simple pizza delivery boy, finds himself driving his uncle's truck, Girnaar Express, to deliver a gorilla from Mumbai to the jetty at Diu. Charlie is unaware that the gorilla is disguised business tycoon MD Makwana who is on the run after committing a multi crore scam.
Cast: Aadar Jain, Jackie Shroff, Siddhant Kapoor, Elnaaz Norouzi, Shloka Pandit
- Watch on: Prime Video

*All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.*



### YUVARATNA (Kannada)
A reputed college that is now on the verge of closing due to the privatisation of the education system fights for survival.
Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Sayyeshaa, Kavya Shetty, Sonu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



### THE BIG BULL (Hindi)
The story of the film is based on real events of financial market that took place between 1990 and 2000 involving Harshad Mehta and his financial crimes.
Cast: Abhishek Bachchan, Nikita Dutta, Ileana D'Cruz, Sohum Shah
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

## ENGLISH

### THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD
The life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity, with his own adventures and the web of friends and enemies he meets along his way.
Cast: Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

### THE NEW MUTANTS
Five teenage mutants -- Mirage, Wolfsbane, Cannonball, Sunspot and Magik -- undergo treatments at a secret institution that will cure them of their dangerous powers.
Cast: Anya Taylor-Joy, Maisie Williams, Blu Hunt, Charlie Heaton
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

### RUN
Chloe was raised by her mother Diane in total isolation. Her mother has totally controlled her since she was born, but now as a teenager Chloe is starting to explore her mother's secrets.
Cast: Sarah Paulson, Kiera Allen, Onalee Ames, Sara Sohn
- Watch on: Netflix

### THEM (Series)
A black family moves from North Carolina to an all-white Los Angeles neighbourhood in 1953, where their idyllic home becomes ground zero for malevolent forces.
Cast: Deborah Ayorinde, Alison Pill, Bashy, Shahadi Wright Joseph
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION
**Prime Video:** ₹ 129 per month
**Disney+Hotstar:** ₹ 399 per year
**Netflix:** ₹ 199 per month

The transgender women featured in the campaign

Shanti Banaras' photo essay Akhatya highlights the lives of eight transgender women

# FASHION THROUGH THE LENS

Razia

RASHMI R

ECO-CONSCIOUS sari label Shanti Banaras has launched a new campaign to highlight the lives of eight transgender women. Supported by an NGO, the Coimbatore-based group is seen wearing some of the label's most exquisite weaves. The campaign is called Akhatya and is a photo essay with the aim to celebrate their "inner beauty and power to fight the odds of societal rejection, ridicule and violence." "It's incredible how each of these feisty people has risen above rejection and disdain to find a life of dignity for themselves. Each texture of their life is as rich as a loom, hand-woven in our atelier and each shade of their life as bright. It was our privilege to capture them in our weaves," shares Amrit Shah of Shanti Banaras. "This photo essay above all is an ode to the city of Varanasi that is a symbol of coexistence." The features transgender woman include Razia, a classical dancer, aspiring actor and student of history; Sara, a beautician; Shobhana, a dancer and chef; Vinita, a home-maker, mother and wife; Yamini, who works at a tech firm; Taslima, an activist; Sujithra, a radio jockey; and Anushya, an auto rickshaw driver.

HERE'S HAPUSA, THE LATEST GIN BRAND TO ENTER BENGALURU WHOSE INGREDIENTS ARE PROCURED FROM THE HIMALAYAS

# Hapusa in Namma Ooru

Anand Virmani, CEO, Nao Spirits and Beverages

ANAGHA M

THE past three or four years have seen a rise in the popularity of gin in Bengaluru. Local brands, as well as international ones, have found a huge market here. The latest gin brand to enter Bengaluru is Hapusa, world's first Himalayan dry gin, a product of Nao Spirits and Beverages. Boasting indigenous Indian ingredients and botanicals, Hapusa (named after the Sanskrit word for juniper), does not have any artificial sugars. We speak to Anand Virmani, the CEO and Distiller at Nao Spirits and Beverages, about the flavour profile, food pairings and the gin market:

**What is a Himalayan dry gin?**
A dry gin is the one which is devoid of any artificial flavour or sugar. Hapusa is called a Himalayan dry gin as we use indigenous juniper berries found near the snowline in the Himalayas.

**How would you describe Hapusa's flavour profile?**
Hapusa is Sanskrit for juniper. The untamed flavour and aroma of the juniper triumphs in the gin and is further complemented by other indigenous botanicals such as the gondhoraj lime, fresh turmeric, raw mango, ginger, cardamom, almond and coriander seeds. Found near the snow line in the Himalayas, the elusive Juniper Berries provide a beautiful structure to the gin while the turmeric and the delectable raw mango make Hapusa, a unique contemporary gin, ideal for sipping.

**What other flavours does it work well with?**
Hapusa is a sipping gin that can be enjoyed all by itself straight from the freezer at "mountain temperature" or as part of classic spirit-forward cocktails like the martini or the negroni. A gin and tonic with Hapusa would be best enjoyed with a wedge of orange which is squeezed and dropped into the glass.

**Are there any food pairings that you recommend?**
Yes. Lots! When having neat or in a martini, Hapusa pairs really well with complex cheeses – Matured cheddar or Blue cheese pair perfectly. Hapusa also finds a great match in rich, dark chocolates.

**What do you feel about the Indian gin market and your competitors?**
India has usually been dominated by brown spirits, especially whiskey and rum; however, a shift in the preference of the consumers has been noticed as urban Indians are gravitating towards Gin as their go-to drink. The Gin market in India is dominated by the value and low-price category but the real growth is in the premium and standard segments currently dominated by imported brands.

There has been a spurt of new home-grown brands that have entered the space and we couldn't be more excited. Gin culture in India is at a very nascent stage and the flames need to be fanned for it to really take shape. New brands and launches add excitement and create overall interest in the category. This is bound to benefit each brand individually.

**The brand has already done well in a few a European countries. Why did you decide to launch in Bangalore only now?**
Bangalore has a great gin-loving audience. We always wanted to make Hapusa available to them but unfortunately Karnataka is one of the most expensive markets to operate in from the perspective of excise tax investment. We're happy to have finally crossed that hurdle.

₹3,750. In select retail outlets

Put on your gears, assemble, your staff and start building a theme park to attract as many people as possible
Having fun with Funfair

PLAY ON Arjun Sukumaran

http://goo.gl/uNBWN3
*(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)*

IN Funfair, you and up to three other players are cast in the roles of theme park designers. Over a series of rounds, you'll hire staff, construct attractions and try to lure as many people as possible through your shiny gates, all in the pursuit of having the most points when the dust has settled.

Funfair is a generous game, and it shows its hand very early — each round begins with an event that affects all players and, unlike almost every other game with events, these are universally great things. Don't mistake the game's largesse for simplicity, however; it's just that Funfair chooses to not use scarcity as the foundation of its challenges. And it does feature challenges aplenty, as your capacity to expand your park depends entirely on your finances and your finances depend entirely on — you guessed it — the paying public who want to visit the park you've built. This tightrope you're required to walk doesn't get easier the more of Funfair you play, but you will start to see the combinatorial potential underneath its skin.

Every card in Funfair offers some level of intrinsic value, but many of them feature the potential to combo very nicely with other potential set-ups you can build. The employees you can hire will either reward you for building your park a particular way, or will help you squeeze a little more money out of your attractions, Meanwhile, those attractions themselves can be jazzed up in various ways by adding utilities and services and — most importantly — themes.

You see, each attraction you build can have a theme applied to it — perhaps you've got a jungle-themed restaurant, or a piratical rollercoaster. Every theme's got a special ability attached to it, but that's almost secondary to how right this feels thematically — of course there'd be a barely-relevant theme applied to a theme park attraction, that just makes sense! If you spent any part of your life playing and loving Rollercoaster Tycoon (or any of the other theme-park management sims that came out on the PC), this is going to speak to you in a way that no other game really has.

Ultimately, it's the little touches that I appreciate the most about Funfair. For example, the deck of blueprints is taken out of the game a couple of rounds before the end so that players can't essentially luck into a win by accidentally drawing a card that's perfect for what they've done so far — something that all-time-great Ticket to Ride is susceptible to. Even something as little as the fact that the board is double-sided to make it easier to read depending on how players are seated around the table shows the level of care and attention to detail that went into this game, and it's really paid off; Funfair is a keeper.

## WHAT'S NEW?

**Unfair**

Funfair is actually a reimplementation of a 2017 game called Unfair. Although it shares the same theme, Unfair is a much harsher and more cutthroat type of game with a definite focus on sabotaging other players. To balance that out, it offers more variety and depth than Funfair; which makes it the ideal next step if you love Funfair, want more, and aren't put off by a little ruthless capitalism.

**Mythic Battles: Ragnarök**

Speaking of capitalism, Monolith is back on Kickstarter with their latest entry in the Mythic Battles series and, as expected, it's not doing too badly at all. At well over a million dollars raised with over a week to go, this particular take on the Norse end-of-days looks set to be one of 2021's biggest hits.

**John Company: Second Edition**

From the mythical to the historical, we come to the second edition of the critically- acclaimed John Company, which is also currently on Kickstarter. This is an interesting one to write about, centred as it is around the British East India Company, but designer Cole Wehrle has studied the subject matter extensively, seeking as he does to provide an in-depth and unsparing portrayal of an institution that was 'as dysfunctional as it was influential'.

# ROBLOX UNBLOCKED

ARE YOU GAME? Anusha Ganapathi

@quaffle_waffle

*(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)*

PLAYING Roblox made me feel as out of place as a giant piecing together tiny lego bricks. Unsettling. It had been a while since I encountered an online gaming platform where strangers were consistently nice to each other on the text chat. But there it was. Roblox isn't just an online platform for gaming that contains a catalogue of several million games, and millions of daily users. It also encourages its users to develop gameplay content and contribute to the platform. It also established a system to monetise the developer's content through its currency — robux. It is also a universe unto itself where every version of reality and every game that has ever existed will find its contemporary in Roblox. It is also playable on your phone or a PC, and several other consoles. It is also free, for the most part. It also…you get it now. There's a lot to uncover.

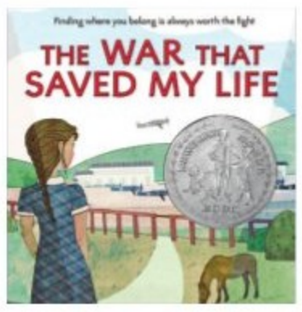
All the games in Roblox are developed using "Roblox Studio". This means that the available games feature the same base 3D effects in varying degrees of complexity. Considering that the games are playable across platforms, the controls are mostly restricted to basic movements, jumps and clicks. Despite the obvious shortcomings associated with "basic" games, the game ideas generated by the users are completely out of the "blox".

The most popular games in Roblox foster cooperative competition. It gives me hope for the future, as it appears that this platform is used mostly by young kids. Nothing motivates me like when 'xgamergirlst11234' types in a "you can do it!" in the chat box, specially when they have nothing to gain from it.

Folks who have played the games multiple times and have been through the whole grind actively try to help you with the format both over chat, and during gameplay. There are several co-operative story-based games, and while I have slipped up multiple times, I have heard nothing but a kind word from the children of the Internet. It makes the often-frustrating graphics and fiddly movements worth it. I almost do not want to tell more people about it; what if the niceness of the community accidentally dilutes?

If you are looking for story, action, and good graphics — it is not the platform for you. If you are looking for value entertainment and a laugh with friends (for free), Roblox awaits. Roblox is like a cream bun, extraordinarily little cream, but the taste lingers.

## CITY READ




### MARATHON READING FOR KIDS

Neev Literature Festival for children is organising a marathon reading challenge for junior readers for children aged between 10-14. Children will interact with the New York Times author Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's on her book titled The War that Saved My Life. Considering the impact of the pandemic on children, Bradley's book focuses on the triumph against all odds, aims to bring back hope and determination among them. The event is scheduled on April 23, 5.30 pm on Zoom.

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# *LAGAAM* TO COMMENCE SHOOTING NEXT WEEK

Muhurath of political satire starring Upendra to be held today, film directed by K Madesh to be shot in Mysuru entirely

Upendra

> The film will bring together an ensemble cast, we are in the process of approaching noted Tollywood actors, Prabhu and Varalakshmi Sarathkumar to play a pivotal role in our film, and is yet to be finalised
>
> K Madesh, director

A SHARADHAA

The Upendra-K Madesh project *Lagaam's* muhurath is to be held on Monday, as the makers plan to commence shooting from April 26. The Real Star, who is currently shooting for *Kabzaa,* has pushed shooting of director Shashank's next project, and will begin work for this film. "This is going to be a political satire, and revolves around money laundering," says the director, who plans to dub and release the film in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi.

The film has Hariprriya playing the female lead along with Sadhu Kokila, Rangayana Raghu, Shobraj, among others joining the team. "The film will bring together an ensemble cast, we are in the process of approaching noted Tollywood actors, Prabhu and Varalakshmi Sarathkumar to play a pivotal role in our film, and is yet to be finalised," Madesh tells us.

The film was bankrolled by M R Gowda and the entire shooting will be canned in Mysuru. *Lagaam* has dialogues penned by M S Ramesh, Rajesh Kata will be cranking the camera and music will be composed by Sadhu Kokila.

Upendra has a string of films in various stages of production. The Real Star's *Home Minister* is yet to see its release while his two other projects *Trishulam*, and *Buddhivantha 2* is in the last phase of shooting.

Hariprriya, who has worked with Baragaru Ramachandrappa for *Amruthamathi,* meanwhile, will collaborate with the director for a biopic on Kasturba Gandhi, which is titled *Thaayi Kasthoor Gandhi*. She will also be associating with Upendra for Shashank's yet-to-be titled film.

Hariprriya

## Maanvi Gagroo to produce *Islands of Contentment*

CE FEATURES

Actor Maanvi Gagroo will be part of an upcoming virtual production titled *Islands of Contentment*. Written by Dipti Bramhandkar, the global production is presented by New York City's The Tank and co-produced by Hypokrit Productions via Zoom.

Maanvi will be sharing the stage with Ajay Naidu, Kalki Koechlin, Suraj Sharma and others in the play's South Asian cast.

*Islands of Contentment* is co-directed by Arpita Mukherjee and Hannah Wolf (with select filmed monologues directed by Rahul Chittella).

Maanvi said, "I am absolutely pumped about the performance as this plunge will enable me to broaden my base. As an artist, I strongly believe that an actor must not be confined to one medium or format and that content always trumps everything else."

*Islands of Contentment* will have thirteen monologues on topics around modern relationships. It will be performed over the weekends from April 16 to May 2.

"The pandemic has forced us to be more creative with not just the content and stories but their format and execution as well. It has brought the world closer, in more ways than one," Maanvi added.

Maanvi Gagroo

A still from *Shokiwala*

The Kannada film directed by Jocky will be dubbed and released in Telugu

## *Shokiwala* heads to TOLLYWOOD

CE FEATURES

Jocky's directorial debut *Shokiwala* will be the latest to head to Tollywood. The film, starring Ajay Rao and Sanjana Anand, made in Kannada, will be dubbed and released in Telugu. Ajay Rao's *Krishnan Marriage Story* was also released in Telugu, and this will be his second film to have a bilingual release. The actor's *Krishna Talkies* hit theatres last week with under 50 per cent occupancy, now gears up for the release of *Shokiwala*. The film, produced by T R Chandrashekar under the banner, Crystal Park Cinemas.

An official announcement of the Telugu release will be made today, while the makers are getting ready for the teaser, to be released on April 21, says the first-time director. He also mentioned that the dubbing of the Telugu version is currently going on in Chennai. "We are aiming for a June release, and work is in progress accordingly. However, everything depends on the pandemic situation," he says.

*Shokiwala* has Prasanth Rajappa penning the dialogues. Sridhar V Sambraham has scored the film's music and Shiva Seena is handling the camera.

T R Chandrashekar, Ajay Rao, Sanjana Anand and Jocky

## *Panchama Adhyaya*, a woman-centric anthology

Conceptualised and produced by Abhinandan Urs, it brings together five visionary stories

CE FEATURES

*Panchama Adhyaya* will be the third anthology to be released in Kannada, with the first two spearheaded by veteran director Puttanna Kanagal in 1976, and Rishab Shetty film's *Katha Sangama*, 2019. While there are a couple in the making, this film conceptualised and produced by Abhinandan Urs brings together five visionary stories and directors for an anthology. It has completed shooting and passed through the Censor Board with a U/A.

Interestingly, the film weaves together women-centric stories, highlighting topics of mental illness, child harassment, generation gap and self-respect. Sharing the first few stills from the film, Abhinandan mentioned that along with him, he would have first-time directors Anil Kumar B H, Nagbhushan Deshpandy, Pavan Shankar, and Ranjan VV making their debut with this anthology. "We also have five DOPs – Ranjith Sethu, Achyuth BS and Enosh Olivers cranking the camera for various episodes. The film's music is scored by Adil Nadaf, and Rajith Sethu is taking care of the editing," he reveals.

A still from the film

The makers have managed to bring on board a few noted actors like Rajesh Nataranga, Sridhar KS, Aruna Balraj, Chandan Achar, Nisha BK, Mayuri Nataraj and Aishwarya Gowda, among others, as part of the star cast.

As for the release, Abhinandan is looking to hit theatres in June, depending on the pandemic situation. "We are also routing for an OTT release, and have made our first approach," he says.

## Adarsh Gourav: Being a singer helps my acting

CE FEATURES

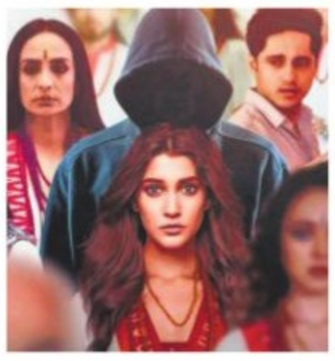
Actor Adarsh Gourav, lead star of the Oscar-nominated film The White Tiger, gave credits to his singing skills for helping him understand the movement of his character and deliver dialogues with the right rhythm.

Gourav, who is also trained in classical music, said, "When you see me break into a song in a scene with actor Rajkummar Rao, it was actually completely impromptu. Being a singer truly helps me understand the movements of my character and deliver dialogues with the right rhythm, which I feel is very crucial for actors."

In the final act of The White Tiger, when Ashok played by Rajkummar Rao, drunkenly sings in English, Gourav performs an impressive Hindi rendition of O Murari Re, which was completely improvised by the actor.

The actor played Balram Halwai in The White Tiger, a role that fetched him a nomination alongside names such as Hollywood actors Anthony Hopkins, the late Chadwick Boseman, Riz Ahmed, Mads Mikkelsen and Tahar Rahim at the 74th British Academy of Films and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards.

Based on Aravind Adiga's novel of the same name, earned writer-director Ramin Bahrani a nomination for the Best Adapted Screenplay category at the upcoming Oscars as well as the recent BAFTAs. The film also features actors Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Raj kummar Rao.



## MX Player releases the trailer for *Hello Mini 3*

CE FEATURES

After solving the entangled threads of her life, Mini gets back on track, steps into her new job and gets back with her boyfriend Danny. However, her fate takes as a steep turn as she chances upon a secret society responsible for honey-trapping politicians in compromising situations. Mini stumbles upon a disturbing truth from her past which leads her down a dark tunnel.

Directed by Arjun Srivasstava and written by Anand Sivakumaran and Ayushee Ghoshal, the 10-episode series is adapted from Novonveel Chakraborty's Stranger Trilogy. The series will stream from April 23 on MX Player. It is produced by Applause Entertainment.

Speaking about this season, lead star Anuja Joshi said, "Mini is now a part of me - I've felt her fear, the adrenaline rush and the anxiety of being stalked through this show. I'm glad we've been able to start some important conversations around stalking. This season is all about Mini finding explanations for all those unanswered questions that plague her about the mysterious stranger and she finally might just get a chance to say hello to him in this edition of the show.

## Sam Levinson to make new series based on Ohio novel

CE FEATURES

Sam Levinson, best known as the showrunner of HBO's *Euphoria*, is set to make another series for the network based on Stephen Markley's debut novel Ohio. The book is a murder mystery that also makes a social commentary and explores subjects like war and racial issues.

The book is described in Goodreads as, "One sweltering night in 2013, four former high school classmates converge on their hometown in northeastern Ohio. Set throughout a single evening, Ohio toggles between the perspectives of these unforgettable characters as they unearth dark secrets, revisit old regrets and uncover—and compound—bitter betrayals. Before the evening is through, these narratives converge masterfully to reveal a mystery so dark and shocking it will take your breath away.

Markley, the author of the novel will also write and executive the series

Rakul Preet and Arjun Kapoor

## *Dil Hai Deewana*, a new romantic single is out

CE FEATURES

Arjun Kapoor and Rakul Preet have featured together in *Dil Hai Deewana,* a new romantic single released by T-Series. Directed by Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, the music video stars Arjun and Rakul in a range of scenarios.

The dance number has been composed by Tanishk Bagchi with vocals by Darshan Raval and actor-turned-singer Zara Khan.

Arjun said he had a blast filming Dil Hai Deewana with Rakul. "Bhushan Kumar has always worked towards giving fantastic music and I definitely think Dil Hai Deewana will be a go-to party song for people," he shared.

Rakul added, "*Dil Hai Deewana* gave Arjun and me the opportunity to work again after Sardar Ka Grandson and it's always fun working with Arjun. The song is very energetic, peppy and we had a great time shooting for it."